

Johnny Callihoo
Villeneuve
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Special Convention Number

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

102 La Fleche Building, 102 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Phone 25965

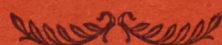
VOL. V.

Edmonton, Alberta, February, 1945.

NUMBER 2.



We humbly ask the blessing of Almighty God upon this Convention. May we be guided in our deliberations, so that our decisions will lead to the more equitable distribution of that plentiful production with which He, through the out-working of Natural Law, has so generously provided us.



Third Annual Convention of the Alberta Farmers' Union

All previous records were broken at the 3rd Annual Provincial Convention of the Alberta Farmers' Union which was held at the Masonic Temple in Edmonton commencing Tuesday, 23rd of January to Friday the 26th.

The Convention was again favoured with exceptionally fine weather and this was gratefully acknowledged by the delegates many of whom had come hundreds of miles to attend the Farmers' Parliament; from the B. C. Block in the north-west, as far north as Township 93 to the international boundary in the south.

In spite of the hotel and housing shortage our delegates all found sleeping accommodation, although some difficulty was experienced. But the splendid co-operation of the citizens of Edmonton who again demonstrated their claim to the title of the Friendly City, enabled every delegate to get a bed. A hearty vote of thanks to the citizens of Edmonton was given at the close of the convention.

There was a total of 517 delegates from the locals. As showing the interest taken by the members of the Union in their own affairs 769 resolutions had been sent in and it took three meetings of the Resolutions Committee to reduce these to the workable number of 120 for the Convention to deal with.

In addition to these there were a few constitutional changes suggested but the delegates turned these down with two exceptions. The incoming board was instructed to make such a change in the by-laws as would ensure that one place on the Executive would in future be filled by a woman.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME

President Jas. Jackson, who has just completed his second term, opened the Convention by delivering the invocation printed on the front cover and the delegates remained standing for a few moments of silence. Mayor Fry welcomed the delegates on behalf of the city. The Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. D. B. McMillan, extended greetings on behalf of the Province and then the delegates got down to business. The three chairmen recommended by the Board: Mr. H. Young of Millet, Mr. W. G. Logan of Holden, and Mr. Wm. Hawrelak, Jr. of Wasel, were accepted by the Convention with the following additions: Mr. L. E. Pharis of Magrath, Mr. G. J. Nestman of Vermilion, and Mr. C. Stimpfle of Egremont, making six in all.

The following committees were approved:

Order of Business Committee:

Mr. W. G. Logan, Holden, Alberta.
Mr. C. O. McGowan, Hairy Hill, Alberta.
Mr. Wm. Hawrelak, Jr., Wasel, Alberta.
Mr. Jas. Jackson, Irma, Alberta.
Mr. H. Young, Millet, Alberta.

Directors Report Committee:

Mr. G. Bevington, Winterburn, Alberta.
Mr. L. E. Pharis, Magrath, Alberta.
Mr. H. Young, Millet, Alberta.

Credential Committee:

Mr. G. Bevington, Winterburn, Alberta.
Mr. G. Kropinski, Consort, Alberta.
Mr. N. Baron, Bonnyville, Alberta.

Resolutions Committee:

Mr. R. Russell, Athabasca, Alberta.
Mr. C. Stimpfle, Egremont, Alberta.
Mr. W. E. Wilson, Cherhill, Alberta.
to which the Convention added
Mr. A. Anderson and Mr. C. O. McGowan.

Press Committee:

Mr. Wm. Hawrelak, Jr., Wasel, Alberta.
Mr. W. G. Logan, Holden, Alberta.

Usher Committee:

Mr. N. Baron, Bonnyville, Alberta.
Mr. W. J. Landry, Dawson Creek, B. C.
Mr. T. Ouellet, McLennan, Alberta.
Mr. W. G. Logan, Holden, Alberta.
to which the Convention added
Mr. Kelly, Mr. Howg and Mr. Lewis.

This latter committee was enlarged to seven because its work was considerably increased owing to the large number of delegates attending which packed every available space in the hall.

This year the program had been printed and a considerable amount of time was saved because several of the committee reports were contained therein so that the delegates could read them at their leisure. These reports included the Board of Directors report, the President's address, the Secretary's report and financial statement.

Any member can obtain one of these programs for 25c by writing to head office.

The Board of Directors report was printed in the program and was read to the Convention by Mr. W. G. Logan.

Acceptance by Springford and Olson.

The Secretary's report on several matters is also printed in the program, to which we draw the attention of our readers, and the financial statement was read. Once again we were able to show an increase in membership, of some 3,000 and we wish at this time to point out that if every member would make it a point to obtain one new member in the coming year, we could exceed this gain by many thousands, at only a fraction of the expense. The financial statement is printed in the program.

Acceptance was moved by Springford and Winnychuk.

President's Address

The President's speech as printed in the program was given right after noon and it was broadcast over C. F. R. N. and we hope a large number of our farmers heard it.

Mr. Jackson stressed the need for all peoples organizations to work together in unity for the common good and recommended on behalf of Agriculture that an experimental farm be set up and run on an 8-hour per day basis in order to determine "costs" which could be used as a basis for Parity Prices.

CO-OP PACKING PLANT

A large number of resolutions had been received dealing with proposals for a Co-operative Packing Plant and in order that the delegates might have all available information on the subject Mr. C. Campbell, ex-Manager of the Alberta Livestock Producers, gave a talk dealing with the subject.

Mr. C. Campbell's Address

CO-OP PACKING PLANTS

CHAIRMAN: The next order of business is an address by Mr. Campbell who until recently was manager of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative for all Alberta.

MR CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. In presuming to talk to you people to-day on the packing plant situation I hope you realize I don't know too much about it and it will be necessary for you to figure out what I say as far as I know the situation. As your chairman just told you until the first of December I was the manager for the Alberta Livestock Co-operative since its inception in Alberta. When your secretary wrote the A. L. C. for some person to give a talk on the packing plant situation our President, Mr. Allen, asked me if I would take on that job. While I don't know too much about the packing game, I have been doing business with the packing industry for a good many years in the province of Alberta. Before going into the

packing plant situation, however, I want to talk a little bit about agriculture.

Agriculture is your industry. It is the food producing industry of Canada and of any country. It is the only industry that we could not get along without if we had to. We must eat. And it is also the only industry that is not controlled by those who make their living by it. Every other industry in the country is controlled by those who invest their money in that industry and run that business, but the food producing industry has been handled from an individualistic standpoint and Mr. Farmer has not got much to say about that industry as a whole. All he can talk about is his own little share in it.

In building up that industry over a good many years in Canada the average individual figured that he could probably farm as well as his father or grandfather and carry on and make that thing work in competition with organized industry and come out on top, but, ladies and gentlemen, that is an impossibility. If you are going to make the farming industry your job, you have to learn more about that job to consolidate the efforts of the individual and that can only be done co-operatively. In building your farmers' union, which is your organization, you built a good organization, a large organization. It is an educational organization, but in conjunction with that educational organization you have got to build co-operatives that you own, control and support, in order to finally control your business and the sale of your production. It does not make any difference what the individual thinks about it, he must conform to the will of the majority if he is going to make that industry his and controlled by him.

Now under our competitive set-up as business is done to-day all your production has to go through four phases. (Shows chart). Here is the production end—this is supposed to represent livestock but it will do for any production. There is the processing end and the distributing end, which is in two phases, wholesale and retail, but it is only shown here as three phases instead of four.

As I said before we must control our production before we step into the processing and distributing end. If we don't we are only another competitor in the processing and distributing end of the business of agriculture

In 1943 the farmers of Alberta produced and sold over 90 million dollars worth of livestock. In 1944 it was much greater than that but figures have not yet been released. That production of livestock was processed and distributed by the packing industry and ladies and gentlemen, the packing industry has done a good job in processing and distributing that livestock for you.

Mr. Morrison, the general manager of the only Co-operative Packing organization in Canada

has given me some figures I will give you in a few minutes. The processor who has invested his money and facilities to distribute your production has one job to do. He must be efficient and know his business and must make a profit for the shareholders of the organization, which is legitimate. In order to do that, he has to control the distribution end and the buying of the live animals. That is the only way he can consistently make a profit from your production.

Control Production

Now to step into the packing game in competition with a man who is well financed and knows his business and who owns and controls the distributing machinery I think is asking for trouble. In the first place, before you can control the processing facilities you must control the production end and the sale of that production, and don't forget that in the distributing end it is just as necessary to control there. It will be some time before the consumer co-operatives are built up on the basis to where they will control enough volume to adequately take care of your production end, but they must go hand in glove to get control from both ends first before tackling the middle. I believe the time will come when you as producer will control from the production end. Not to-day. You have a job to do first and that is to control your production and the sale of it, control the distribution and the sale of that produce.

There has been a lot of demand from farmers and producers to go into the packing game in Alberta. Last spring the board of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative decided that probably the best thing to do would be to bring in a man who knew something about not only the co-operative end of it but having learned his business with the bigger organizations with the packing industry, he would be able to give us some facts and figures in regard to the whole set-up, so he was invited to our annual meeting last July, and he gave us a pretty good picture of what producers of this country would be up against in attempting to step in as competitors to the existing packing industry. The time will come when you may want to go into that business but until we learn a little something more about our production end and the distributing end, the export and the domestic consumption, and get a bit better posted, we should leave the processing and distributing to those who know the business, unless you want to pay for that experiment. Because those people have processed what you have produced all the way through.

Your production for 1944 was the largest in Canadian history. True, those fellows have trouble in processing it all in Alberta — some had to go to Eastern Canada, but eventually it

was all processed and distributed, and with the present outlet across the water for all we can produce and ship you have done a good job to produce that volume. That volume has been stepped up from about 187 million lbs. in 1939 to over 700 million in 1944. You people stepped up that production, the processor stepped up his facilities to process and distribute that amount. Don't think we could have done that on our own.

Further, in looking at the packing facilities of this country and what we want to do as farmers, we have to take into consideration that it will take an enormous amount of money to build the facilities to distribute and process our livestock.

Now the idea of going into the processing game might look fine from the individual point of view where he does not know the business, but when you stop to figure that in order to handle your livestock production in Alberta only by your co-operative you would have to spend very nearly four million dollars. That is a lot of money, coupled with the fact that you don't know the business, and men who are capable of handling that kind of a job are just not obtainable at the present time.

Now the total, according to the government figures Mr. Morrison gave us, gross profit for the packing industry and the turn over value was 6% gross out of which costs had to come. A fraction over 1% was the net profit, to the packing industry. The reason they are able to operate on that basis is because generally speaking they have a big volume of business, they are well equipped with good facilities and experienced personnel. Early in the year and during the latter part of 1943, due to the fact there was a big scarcity of help in the plants they ran into snags and could not process all of our livestock in western Canada. Some had to go East and that cost you a little money. In normal times the capacity of the packing industry is more than ample. It may or may not be in post-war years because we don't know how much business we can export. I think at the present time we are handling more than in our history before due to the fact that the Old Country wants our production, but after the war is over the people in the Old Country are still going to need bacon and other livestock products.

Listening to some of the co-operative personnel who came over here from both England and Scotland in the early fall months they were quite frank in stating that the people of England and the British Isles felt that they owed Canada a debt that they wish to pay but that there was only one way that they could pay and that is that we would have to trade with them. We would have to expect other commodities in return for our livestock production and other farm produc-

tion in Canada. We could not expect to sell them our production and get cash for it because they didn't have the cash. They were now a debtor nation and the only way in which they could hope to pay was in goods. That means that considerable changes must take place in our basis of doing business in Canada if we are going to sell them the quantity we hope to. As long as we have the outlet for this production I think it is good business to go after that production. In other words we are going to make a mistake if we cut down our production too drastically, especially now when it is vitally needed. We can go too far in cutting down and we should not do that.

Post War Market

We know the average producer in Alberta and Canada as a whole has done a good job in boosting that production. But he got started well on the way in livestock production because he could not sell his grain. Now grain has gone up in price and there is an outlet for it at a fair price and a good many people are cutting down possibly a little too far. However, that is a matter for the individual or organized farmer to figure out. If we expect to continue to hold a big proportion of the Old Country outlet after the war we must give them all they need now and we must be on our toes to give them a better article as we go along, to process it better and deliver it in better shape. That is part of our job as producers whether we go into the processing game or not.

After the war is over we will need a meat board in Canada for some considerable time, because if it were eliminated and industry were allowed to step into those other countries and compete for a place it would cost you money. There would be too much competitive expense. That is the reason why we must learn to control our production end and eliminate waste. Then we can move up to this fellow, buy him out, and you won't be stepping in as just another competitor. In other words, you will be taking over part of the present set-up and it would cost you more to buy and pay for experience of building and operating these plants if you started on your own, especially when you don't know the game.

Now I don't know whether you people wish me to spend the most of the afternoon giving you my ideas or not, but I want to say that this industry of agriculture is absolutely and entirely in the hands of the producers themselves. They can make it work or they can continue to pay for the other fellow's basis of making it work. The whole sum and substance boils down to this—it is your job. You cannot expect to change it overnight. We have got to have a considerable lot of vision to be able to see and to plan to build

something that will change the economy of our agriculture in Canada. We have to have a lot of faith in ourselves, in our neighbors, in our organizations to carry on and to put that plan into operation. We have to have a mighty lot of courage to carry on in the face of what this set-up here will try to do to any producer control or consumer control there. We have to be willing to co-operate and to work out our problems with one another. If we can't do that then we are not going to go very far towards control of the food producing industry.

Any way we look at it we can see obstacles of course. But with the vision and the faith and the courage and the will to co-operate, there is nothing that you cannot do provided you are willing to pay the price to change this economic set-up. You are going to have to pay the price in money, in work, in effort and a continual fight to control your own destiny. If you want to do it, it can be done. If you don't, you will have to continue to pay the other man to do that work for you. It rests entirely with the producers of this country as to how far they want to go.

When your president a little while ago remarked about the boys overseas and what they had done and the way they had held up their end, there are not many good citizens in this country if we cannot do an equally good job. A man or woman who cannot see anything else but pessimism and cannot see any good in the drive of others or in co-operatives and people helping themselves is not a good citizen. We have to be willing if we want to change conditions in this country to accept the responsibility of ownership and control and make it work, to give the majority of the people what they are striving for. If we want to do it we can do it, but you cannot do it overnight and cannot do it by giving your A.F.U. a dollar or by a membership in one of the co-operatives at a dollar and then spending the rest of the time trying to tear the organization to pieces. You must support the organization and work and fight for it as well. If you can't do that I still say you are poor citizens. We don't need too many of them in this country. The people of Canada have always been able to hold their own any place they went. Why can't we do it at home? We can if we want to.

When you stop to figure that our ancestors came over to this country to a forest and built what they did without any help from any government and then listen to people whine to-day you would think we had deteriorated very much. Those people came here and had the vision to see they might be able to build a better destiny in a new country than where they came from. They had the faith in themselves to try it out and the courage to co-operate and work with one another and they built better than they knew

and to-day the majority of us are too willing to try and tear that to pieces instead of following their example of doing an equally good job.

It is up to us, it is up to the individual. If you want a farmers' organization or want to control the business you are in, you must go to work at it. You can't sit down and talk about the other fellow's efforts. You have to get busy and work at the the job. If you don't want to do it this is the wrong place for you. You don't belong in this country.

Now, when these boys come back, if they do come back, are we going to let them take the same dose their fathers took after the last war? The majority of you know what that was. We were to blame and so were they. Because we had been allowing organized industry to run the whole show for us; — government included. We talk about being in a democracy. It is a democracy, and it is just as good a one as we are democratic people. We are a simple democracy in this country. We made what we have got. Why bellyache about the government or about the co-ops or farmers' union or any other organization? It is what you do that counts not what they do. They are going to do what you want if you are on the job and know what you want and are willing to pay the price of carrying on and building and getting what you want. As I said before we need the vision, the faith, the courage, to co-operate, and ladies and gentlemen, we will never need to hope for charity.

CHAIRMAN: We are indebted to Mr. Campbell for his very interesting talk. If you would like to ask any questions I presume he would be willing to answer to the best of his ability. We will have a short question period.

Q. My neighbor shipped ten hogs the other day. He got paid for nine—one was condemned for arthritis.

A. He should have got paid for that hog unless the hog was bought subject to condemnation.

In other words when there are quite a lot of condemned animals coming from any part of the country to-day they know who they belong to because they are tattooed with every farmers' number. If any member of any organization or any individual farmer has more than he should have of condemned animals after one or two shipments they buy them subject to condemnation. That $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% condemnation insurance is supposed to cover all losses and I have never known yet the packer to refuse to pay unless he notified you in advance.

Q. This man said if they had sent it back to him he would have eaten it.

A. What one man will eat and what the government vets allow the rest of us to eat are two different things.

MR. MACDONALD: In speaking, Mr. Campbell used the word "profit". In a true co-operative is there such a thing as profit?

MR. CAMPBELL: No, a distributive surplus.

MR. MACDONALD: That word should not be used at any time in speaking of co-operatives.

MR. CAMPBELL: I was using Mr. Morrison's word in connection with the letter I read.

MR. MACDONALD: In regard to a packing plant you seem to think it is practically an impossibility. It may be at this time but I believe a good many of the people in this convention hall right now don't entirely agree. I would like to know why it would be so hard to do anything in that line when we have been so successful in wheat and in oil.

A. Regarding the packing plant situation I don't wish to convey the idea that it is impossible. Nothing is impossible. I don't think it would be good business until we learn something about it, because we would have to compete with the existing organizations who have the outlet and who know their business, and who would not let you remain in business—I don't think so. But if you can get farmers enough to subscribe the money and to get to the plant enough livestock there is nothing to hinder you from trying it out. I have been looking at it from the standpoint of what Mr. Morrison gave us and have been looking at it from the standpoint of using a little horse sense. Because any time we step into the other fellow's game without very much money and knowledge we are liable to get trimmed at that game. If the people want it and will pay for it and support it, sure you can have it. That is a matter for the people to decide. I am not here to tell them it is impossible but I don't think it is feasible at the present time.

MR. MACDONALD: I agree with you—it is not advisable at the present time. But what about the wheat pool?

A. They are handling a commodity from the producer to the manufacturer, just the same as livestock co-op is done. They have to get control of enough of that commodity to make a better basis of dealing with those people to whom they have to sell. They have to take into consideration the customer they eventually hope to sell that product to. Back in the 30's when the customer didn't have too much money, he didn't buy your commodity. He didn't have the price and no matter how cheap it was he still could not buy it.

MR. LOVELOCK: I would like to go back to condemnation insurance. I think it is generally agreed that the collection of this fund is more than adequate to take care of any losses they experience I can't see why that can't be paid for out of that fund. It seems to me if you are going to deduct from all farmers' stock a half of

one percent that should take care of that situation, or what is it for? I would like to know why they can get away with not paying a man for one hog.

A. It is not the first hog that has not been paid for in the province of Alberta. I can't give you the answer to that particular question because I don't know what happened but I will say this that if an injustice has been done if he takes it up in the proper quarters he will get an adjustment because unless the packer had notified him or his agent in advance he would buy those hogs subject to condemnation he would still have to pay subject to that half of 1% condemnation insurance. Late in 1911 the Toronto packers announced this system of deduction. Finally 200 farmers, shippers, etc. met in Toronto in 1912. A committee was formed and it was agreed that a system of deductions contributed to by all sellers of livestock should be adopted. This is exactly the same principle as any other form of insurance. In the west it is half of 1% on everything. This was mutually agreed upon between representative farmers, shippers, packers and government officials at that time.

MR. LOVELOCK: The fund should be more than adequate to take care of any losses.

A. The packer says he does not get enough out of that to cover his losses. There is only one answer. When you control the majority of the volume of livestock you will be able to talk turkey to the man you are trading with. I don't mean you can gouge him or ask unfair prices but you will be able to have any advantages there might be on the basis of good trading.

DELEGATE: Is there going to be any time when we can take up the matter we are discussing here.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, there are a number of resolutions which will deal with these problems.

MR. BURBIDGE: I would like to ask if those figures of 1% net profit to packers are taken from the packers ads as they are seen in the paper or what.

A. I took them from the government figures as submitted by the packers to the government. That was the average for all Canada of all the inspected plants where the government has supervision.

DELEGATE: It is a strange thing that the packers and the government are pretty well linked up as one. That is, concerning the bacon quota and the beef.

A. As I understand your question I would say this, the product that is sold to the Government Meat Board by the packers is based on quality grade and standard price for that quality and grade and that is what they receive from one end of the year to the other. The fluctuating markets that we have as we go along is because

at times when there is a little scarcity any packer who needs enough volume to keep his employees going will pay a little more to get it. He won't pay it on the local market but will go outside and get it in the country. Every time he has to pay more for any livestock, he must buy others some place else at less money or make you pay the difference some other time. He is not going to overpay and continue to do it and stay in business.

Q. But does he ever lose?

A. I think so. In the long run though he does not. You do. But he has consistently made a profit through the years if he is an efficient businessman and most are that have survived. It is a business proposition with the packer and he will look out for number one. You can't blame him for that. If we would spend as much effort in figuring costs and producing a better article and distributing it to suit the trade as the packer does, agriculture would be on a better basis than it is to-day. I am mentioning this from the standpoint of good business.

DELEGATE: There is a man from our district that shipped in ten pigs recently to Calgary and he showed me the receipts just before I came up here. Three of his pigs were condemned. He got paid for seven. He took them to the mat over that and was unable to get a cent. I would like a little more information and explanation of that condemnation insurance. They say he is not entitled to that.

A. There is not much explanation I can give you. I don't know what the circumstances were. I have heard quite a few people mention arthritis—those are the hogs they are not getting paid for. It is possible the packers have got together and refused to pay for them. They are not different from T.B. hogs. If they are condemned for human consumption it is no different. Go to the head government grader and he will work on the thing and if it is possible to get reimbursed he will go as far as any one can go to get it for you.

DELEGATE: I would like to ask why prices are guaranteed to the packer and not to the farmer. His price varies from day to day. Why should that be?

A. As I explained a little while ago the packer often pays a little more in one place than he does in another because he needs that extra volume. Up until last fall the packers paid varying prices and also paid freight in a good many cases and paid bonuses, but after the volume was too heavy for them to process in those plants they quit paying freight and bonuses and just paid one price. The government has set the price on the commodity that they inspect F.O.B. seaboard. We don't sell the finished article to the packer. We sell him dressed pork and he has to process it and

distribute it. The government didn't set the price to the producer. They set it to the packer, and he naturally wants a little leeway in order to get what he considers his share of the livestock when he wants it.

DELEGATE: That is no reason why it should follow—

A. Individuals are continually hauling their livestock to the back door of the plants and unloading it there and not selling to their own organization and not doing anything about controlling the prices; they are getting just what they are paying for and paying for what they are getting.

MR. PESKOWSKY: I move we close this question period now.

MR. OLSEN: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor? Carried.

Report of Resolutions Committee

Mr. Logan in the chair.

The report of the Resolutions Committee was then read by Mr. R. N. Russell. The following is the report:

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

This is the first time this Union has had a standing Resolutions Committee chosen to prepare a list of resolutions submitted throughout the year to be presented to the Annual Convention.

No rules were made or suggestions given us as to how this work was to be done, other than to cut down the number of resolutions taken to the Convention, without holding anything which it is proper to present.

We have brought you about 120 resolutions. These have been consolidated from all the resolutions sent to Central Office prior to December 31st, 1944. Every topic brought up by the resolutions sent in has been included in the resolutions submitted. We urge all locals to have resolutions sent to Central Office before December 31st so that Resolutions Committee will be able to have them printed by Convention time. We had 765 resolutions to consider, of course many of them were quite similar, such as 52 of them were on the forming of a Co-op Packing Plant.

We must point out the fact that according to the Societies Act under which we hold our Charter it is illegal to carry on any trade or business. We wish to refer you to Section 4, paragraph 1, and Section 6, paragraph 1, of the Societies Act and also clause 60 of our constitution.

THE SOCIETIES ACT

4. — (1) Five or more persons may become incorporated under this Act for any benevolent, philanthropic, charitable, provident, scientific, art-

istic, literary, social, educational, agricultural, sporting or other useful purpose, but not for the purpose of carrying on any trade or business.

6. — (1) No society shall have a capital divided into shares or declare any dividend or distribute its property among the members during the existence of the society, and the interest of a member in a society shall not be transferable.

We, therefore, recommend that locals consider the constitutionality of their resolutions.

We wish to impress on the members' minds the need of putting a proper heading on all resolutions sent into Head Office and we would also recommend that each resolution be written separately and to designate clearly to which department, whether Provincial or Federal, it is to be sent or if you desire the Executive to act upon it at once or hold it for the next Convention.

We would suggest that a report be made each month in the A. F. U. Bulletin on the progress or fate of the resolution.

We advise all delegates to read their copies of the resolutions submitted and check closely the identification numbers of the locals and Districts under the headings as the resolutions sent in by various locals have been incorporated and re-drafted into one.

If it is the desire of the Convention to have a Resolutions Committee as at present, a resolution to that effect will have to be passed at this Convention.

We respectfully submit this report.

(Mr. R. N. Russell)

(Mr. C. Stimpfle) Committee

(Mr. W. E. Wilson)

A motion to accept the report was made by C. Stimpfle and Olson and carried.

Following this report the delegates dealt with the Co-op Packing Plant resolution on page 30 and after deleting the last 11 words by amendment, carried the motion as amended. "Therefore be it resolved that this Union endorse the idea of a producer and consumer Packing Plant.

Lovelock and Isaac.

Resolution on page 59 on Hog Grading was carried after the last sentence was struck out on amendment of McBeath and Rigges.

Resolution number 3 on page 48 re Meat Grading, received a lot of discussion and after a motion to have it re-drafted had been defeated, it was finally amended so that the contentious first paragraph read: "All meats being sold to consumers should be graded according to grades given producers and sold at prices accordingly." On amendment by Mrs. Whalen and Rigges.

Carried.

Resolution number 4, page 43 asking that the Provincial Government take over the control and operation of all packing plants and handle

them as a public utility, was defeated almost unanimously by a big vote.

Resolutions numbers 5 and 7 on page 35, were carried and number 6 on page 35 was am-

ended by adding "to cover livestock on farms or in transit" and Carried.

This concluded the afternoon session and a motion to adjourn till 8 o'clock was carried.

Tuesday Evening Session

In the evening with Wm. Hawrelak in the chair, the delegates heard fraternal greetings conveyed from the U. G. G. by Mr. J. J. McClelland and then Mr. J. B. Brown, President of the C. C. I. L. gave a talk on the organization work necessary to put C. C. I. L. over in Alberta.

Canadian Co-operative Implements

CHAIRMAN: Before we come to the next item on the agenda, I would like to make a few remarks about this speaker. As your representative, I had the privilege of attending his annual convention in Saskatoon in December, and from the observations I made at this convention, I can tell you, and sincerely do so, that the president of that organization in the person of Mr. Brown, is one of real dogged determination and vigor and pep and is determined to make his organization go over the top and do the work we are expecting it to do. I have pleasure in introducing Mr. J. B. Brown, President to Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great appreciation that I have this opportunity of speaking to this very large gathering. It is only the second occasion on which I have spoken to such a large audience — last week I spoke to the convention of the U. F. A. In Manitoba, I and many other farmers, have followed with a great deal of interest the development of the farm movement in this province. It is a simple statement of fact to say that the farmers of Alberta have been in the forefront of almost all the organizations and efforts launched by the farmers of these western prairies.

My duty to-night of course is to talk to you about the newest and one of the most ambitious of all co-operative enterprises that have been started in this country, Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited, but before saying anything about C. C. I. L. I think I should tell you that I have farmed in Manitoba for more than 30 years, that I still of course own my farm, and that I have only been connected with this implement co-operative with the same idea that activates most of those men who have joined, namely that of doing something, taking the only action that offered itself to us to reduce the price of machinery.

A great many people have the idea that this implement co-operative was set up to sell machi-

nery. That of course is the very last idea in our mind. This co-operative was not set up to sell machinery. It must of course actually sell machinery to the members of this co-operative, but it was set up in order to enable farmers of Western Canada to join together to buy their machinery co-operatively, and by so doing to eliminate the waste inherent in the present competitive methods of distribution and thereby to reduce prices. It was another objective, of course, as well, to improve the quality of the machines that we use, to improve the design and the quality of the material used in our machines. We believe that very considerable can be done in the improvement of the quality of machinery.

Forming C. C. I. L.

C. C. I. L. was formed about four years ago now, and I think almost all of you know why. It was formed as the result of the dissatisfaction of the farmers of these western prairies with the price they were being charged for machinery. In 1936 due to that dissatisfaction and also due to the action of the machine companies in increasing the price of machinery immediately following a reduction in the tariff by the Liberal administration, a committee of the House of Commons was set up to enquire into the reasons for the high price of machinery. That committee sat for about 18 months, investigating the whole situation very completely and coming to certain very definite conclusions. Two years later, as no action had been taken a committee of the Saskatchewan legislature was appointed for the same purpose. That committee used the factual data assembled by the Ottawa investigation very largely, and came to very similar conclusions. It was, however, a bit more specific in its definite recommendations. It recommended as the only true and proper solution to the problem of high prices the formation by the farmers of Western Canada of an implement co-operative organization. I should point out, of course, that the Ottawa committee made a somewhat similar recommendation. It recommended that if the machine companies did not take action to correct the reasons for the high cost of machinery, namely the waste in distribution, that the farmer should be encouraged to set up an implement co-operative.

So, as I have said, about four year ago C. C. I. L. was formed. It was born as a result of a

meeting attended by representatives of the various provincial governments here in Western Canada and of the major co-operatives. A campaign was launched and the first annual meeting was held in February, almost four years ago. It was only then of course that the farmers who had joined in this organization had an opportunity to take the control of it into their own hands, which they proceeded to do.

During the following year or so in the course of the campaign a matter of about 24,000 farmers, mostly in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, joined this co-operative organization. They subscribed almost a quarter of a million dollars. In Alberta the organization was somewhat later in getting under way, and when the time arrived that the wartime restrictions were put into effect which debarred us from actively entering business, we had only secured some \$20,000.00 in Alberta, and about 2,000 members. I think this is about the only occasion on which a co-operative or any other farm organization found Alberta lagged behind. Perhaps it was due to caution after perhaps having had your fingers burnt a few more times than we had had. It is a good thing to be cautious, but not overly so. I am reminded of a story which gives an example of what we might call an excess of caution. In my own home country there was an old farmer who had been renting the farm he was on during all his life time. His father and grand-father had rented before him from the same landlord. The old chap finally was about 75 years of age. He had saved up enough money to buy the farm. He was in the lawyer's office, making the final arrangements with the landlord for the deal. The landlord wanted a 999 year lease drawn up, as that was cheaper than going back so many years to get a clear title. They were going to split the cost of the transfer, but the old farmer stood out for a clear title. It had been his life-long ambition to own the farm. He had the money and he wanted the clear title. The landlord said, well 999 years are just the same as perpetuity. No, said he, I am not so sure. A thousand years doesn't take so very long to slip away, ye ken.

A good many years slipped away while we were paying high prices for machinery and we got fed up with it. During the last 2½ years or up until last fall, because of the wartime restrictions on our entering business, we had to carry on and wait until the situation matured, and in my opinion it was a good thing that we were not permitted because of those restrictions to enter business about three years ago, because had we entered business at that time with about 24,000 members and with only a quarter of a million dollars, we would have been attempting far too much with far too little. Because of the very nature of the farm implement business, it can-

not be entered in a co-operative way unless on a major scale. Local co-operative associations can and do take agencies for machine companies. My own local co-operative association has had the agency for one of those companies for quite a number of years and we have effected worth while savings to our members. But to merely save part of the agent's commission is not enough. A great deal more than that can be done. A great deal more can be done by setting up a co-operative organization which will effect co-operative distribution and cut out these competitive wastes that have such a great deal to do with the high prices we have been compelled to pay for our machinery.

Manufacturing

About a year and a half ago we decided to associate ourselves with a manufacturing co-operative in the United States, the National Farm Machinery Co-operative. That co-operative organization is composed of about 14 different regional wholesale co-operatives in the States, covering the territory from the state of Washington as far east as Pennsylvania, and as far south as Washington, D. C. It established a factory for manufacturing tractors about six or seven years before that time and there were only three regionals in it when it was first started. But a year and a half ago a meeting was held at Shelbyville in Indiana. Mr. Fowler and I attended that meeting and after very careful consideration by the board of C. C. I. L. we decided to become associated with it, and to invest about \$115,000.00 against capital stock, and in return we were to get about 500 tractors per year in the years following the end of the war when the factory started producing tractors again.

This last spring we started negotiations for the purchase of a small farm equipment plant in Winnipeg, and at the end of last July we consummated the deal. It cost us altogether about \$400,000.00, that is for the fixed assets and the stock in trade. That plant is not a plant which can be expected to economically produce field machinery on any extensive scale. It has in excess of 100 employees. We are operating it very successfully but we never expect to develop that plant to the point where it would supply the farmers of Western Canada with their field machinery.

Also, more than a year ago, we engaged an engineer at Regina, a man with practical farm experience and a graduate in agricultural engineering, and gave him the task of designing a one way disc. It took him one year to do this. Last winter we sent out hundreds of questionnaires over Manitoba and Saskatchewan to farmer members of ours. The questionnaires had about 38 questions on them. We asked these men to tell us just how they wanted the one way disc

built. When all those returns were received, our engineer tabulated them and proceeded to design the disc on the basis of the consensus of opinion expressed by those hundreds of farmers. I was at Regina last October when the one way, after being built, was hitched on to and taken down the field. We didn't know whether it would work or not, but it did and it worked well. After ironing out a few things that needed to be corrected, it was taken on a tour of Saskatchewan and gave demonstrations attended by hundreds of farmers, and the opinion expressed everywhere by those men who saw it was that it was better than any machine presently on the market. They were men like yourselves who knew what they were talking about. That disc was taken over the most difficult sort of land.

Now, the general policy of C. C. I. L. is not to manufacture machinery. We realize in spite of the fact that we have associated ourselves with this national machine co-operative in the States, and in spite of the fact that we have bought this plant at Winnipeg, and have designed a one way, that the amount of money that would be required to enter into the manufacture of machinery on any large scale, would be very great indeed and would involve a sum larger than we could expect to secure from the farmers in share capital or in loan. We also realize there are a great many dangers in entering into a field of which we have such little knowledge. C. C. I. L., when first established, asked the farmers to become members on the grounds that it proposed to enter into an arrangement with an existing manufacturer whereby we would take their machines at the factory door, pay them a reasonable price for those machines, and effect the savings that would be effected by co-operative distribution. One thing we farmers do know how to do is to distribute economically. To distribute co-operatively is to distribute economically.

There never was any confusion either of thought or purpose in taking over this plant at Winnipeg or in associating ourselves with the American co-operative. We always had clearly in our mind this main idea of effecting an arrangement to take the machines at the factory door and to sell them through our own co-operative agencies. That was and still is the policy of this organization. It is a fact that we cannot go to all the various manufacturers and ask them to sell machines to us, because of course if those manufacturers all sold in bulk to this co-operative it would have the effect of disrupting their whole selling mechanism. About the only feasible and practical method of effecting co-operative distribution is to effect an arrangement whereby the co-operative would take over the whole western distribution of a certain particular manufacturer. That is what we propose to do.

Financing C. C. I. L.

Last September, seeing that the position was right to put C. C. I. L. into a position to get into business as soon as possible after the war, we called a conference at Winnipeg. That was attended by representatives of all three governments and by representatives of the great major co-operatives in the three provinces. We had from Alberta your provincial secretary, Mr. Hooke and Mr. McMillan, the Minister of Agriculture. We had the premiers of both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. At one time we had about a dozen or more cabinet ministers there. The whole position was examined very carefully. In opening the meeting I pointed out that the problem of high machinery prices was one that concerned not only we farmers who had taken positions of responsibility in C. C. I. L. and those who were just ordinary members but concerned all those who had the welfare of the western Canadian farmer and of all the people in Western Canada at heart. I pointed out that it was unreasonable to expect a comparative few of us to take the action on our own to reduce these prices. I pointed out that this co-operative had a minority of the farmers in its ranks, and that as a result of our operations once we went into business it would be virtually certain we would effect a general correction of the price level which would effect all farmers in Western Canada, and indirectly every person in Western Canada.

At the conference the three prairie governments and almost all the major co-operatives pledged their whole-hearted support to C. C. I. L. They examined the position very carefully indeed. A committee was appointed after the first day composed of the premier of Manitoba, the premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. J. E. Brownlee, and myself and our auditor. That committee was charged with the responsibility of drawing up a budget and suggesting the amount of money that would be required to enable C. C. I. L. to effectively enter business and carry out its program of reducing machinery prices. After considerable deliberation we decided about two and a quarter million dollars was a desirable amount, and that that would be sufficient to enable us to carry out our ideas. It was decided that conditional upon C. C. I. L. securing from farmers of Western Canada a total of one million dollars, \$750,000.00 in addition to the quarter million we secured about three years ago, that the three governments would put up another half million dollars in addition to the \$250,000 they had advanced to us in order to finance the purchase of that plant at Winnipeg. The other major co-operatives undertook to supplement this by advancing us another half million dollars. That is one million from farmers, three-quarters of a million from the three governments in proportion to their popu-

lations and investment in farm machinery and a half million from other co-operatives, which gave us a total capitalization of two and a quarter million dollars.

We agreed to this proposal and I might say when we agreed to it when I came back to our board and told them I had agreed that we would raise another three quarters of a million dollars they thought we had stuck our neck out too far. We remember the great difficulty we had faced in securing that first \$250,000 and were inclined to be doubtful about securing from the farmers of these three provinces such a huge sum of money as \$750,000.00. Mr. J. E. Brownlee, as a matter of fact, said more than once that the limit we could raise would be half a million dollars. During that last two months we have raised that in Manitoba and Saskatchewan alone as a matter of fact and we have only scratched the ground. In Saskatchewan we have raised now a total of close to \$275,000 in this present drive. We have had as much come into the Regina office as \$37,000 in one day. I had a letter from the Winnipeg office yesterday morning and during the two previous days \$10,000 had come in and of course Manitoba is about half the size of Alberta.

The split between the three provinces of the total of one million dollars is on the basis of farm population and investment in farm machinery. Manitoba's share is 22% of the total, Saskatchewan's 42% and Alberta's 36%. In terms of membership (I might tell you we undertook to double our membership to at least 50,000) Alberta's share is 18,000 and her share of the share capital is \$360,000. To date we have about \$20,000 only from Alberta and that was all secured about three years ago. However, after speaking to your sister organization last week and after speaking to many of your men here, and after having your director, Mr. Hawrelak at our annual convention last December, I have no doubt whatsoever that the objective both in membership and share capital in Alberta will very easily be secured.

Questions Booklet

In Manitoba, for example, and in Saskatchewan too, we have many townships scattered all over each of these provinces, where we have secured in excess of \$1,000 in share capital. Once the drive is thoroughly completed in these other two provinces we are quite confident we will reach nearly double the goal we have set ourselves. Properly approached by the right sort of people, almost every farmer is joining up. The only men who are not are the old chaps who are looking forward to retiring within the next year or so. There are a great many questions that farmers always ask about C. C. I. L. and we have prepared a booklet entitled "Questions and Ans-

wers" in which we go over about 23 of these questions that are commonly asked by farmers. I expect that I will be receiving about 5,000 of these pamphlets before you men finish your convention here. I rather think they should be here by Thursday and if so, I will bring them down and I hope every one of you will take at least one copy.

The questions asked in the pamphlet are the common questions asked. How soon can we get it? What kind can we get? How much savings can we expect? What service and repair facilities will be maintained by C. C. I. L.? Can the design and quality of machinery be improved? Is there a likelihood of the price of machinery being increased? Will you sell to non-members? What are the requirements of membership? All these questions are answered. Of course they are not answered very fully but they are answered. So, if it will not take too much time I might elaborate a little of some of the answers. How soon will he get machinery? Just as soon and no sooner as they join up in sufficient numbers and provide the requisite capital for us to begin to make negotiations for the supply of machinery. I might tell you this — that a committee was appointed at that conference to look into the matter of securing supplies of machinery for this organization and that committee is not composed of the executive of C. C. I. L. but the three western premiers, Mr. Jack Wesson, president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Mr. Geo. Irwin, the President of the Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives. Those gentlemen, together with myself and our accountant constitute the committee. When a committee of that kind with 50,000 members behind it and with two and a quarter million dollars of capital behind it goes to effect an arrangement with a manufacturer I think you can feel pretty confident that we will be able to carry out such an arrangement. We could not have secured a stronger committee, and as I have already pointed out before these three governments and before these established co-operatives were prepared to lend the C. C. I. L. their support and prepared to have their representatives act on this committee, they had to be assured we knew what we were doing and were approaching this whole matter in a business like and realistic manner. If it would satisfy these men I think we have every justification for expecting the confidence of the farmers on the land.

What Make of Machinery?

What kind of machinery will C. C. I. L. provide? Our idea is to effect an arrangement with a particular manufacturer to take over his whole production. You immediately jump to the conclusion that that limits the members of this co-operative to using these same machines they have

been in the habit of buying from that particular manufacturer. It is true that for the first year or so that will be the case. After that time the machines that we will have built for us will be built in the same way as the one-way was built at Regina last year. What we intend to do is to send out questionnaires to our farmer members and ask them just how they think this, that, and the other machine should be built, and we will have them built as I say in accordance with the ideas of the farmers themselves. Farmers don't know anything about building farm machinery but it is a simple fact that every idea with respect to improvements or almost every idea on those machines we are presently using, and almost every idea with respect to new machines comes from the farmers themselves. Where else could they come from? You could not expect an engineer sitting in a factory in Eastern Canada to work these ideas out of his own head. The old saying is that necessity is the mother of invention. It is only by the application of our brains to a problem that faces us that we evolve a new idea. In Manitoba and in Saskatchewan I have met scores of farmers and during the last week in your own Alberta, who have told me that this, that or the other idea on this or the other machine was theirs. They told me that in some cases they effected the improvement themselves and in other cases they told the local agent about it. He conveyed the idea to the branch manager and he to Eastern Canada, and it was incorporated in the next machine that came out. Of course the farmer is forgotten. He gets no credit for it at all. Few people get credit for ideas because once given it belongs to the ones who can pick it up and take advantage of it. The only one who might benefit might be the branch manager; he might get ten or fifteen dollars a month more salary for a particularly good idea.

No farmer therefore need be at all afraid of the machines these co-operatives will handle. They should be better than any others on the market. They should be. There is not a single farmer in this audience who does not know a little improvement that might be made on almost any machine. If you took all the good points of all the various machines and put them into one, it would be a pretty good machine. As far as patents are concerned, the machine companies never sue one another for infringement of patents, but if this co-operative went in, it might be done.

Service

As far as services and repairs are concerned we will provide the necessary services. Most of the machine companies stress this matter to a great extent. But we can take a car out of a garage and run it for a long time without giving it any particular attention. Farm machines very

often give a lot of grief. If they are built as they should be they should require very little service. So far as repair stocks are concerned they will be maintained of course at most local points because that is what the farmers want. Most of them want them carried quite close to them and this being a farmers' organization it will be just exactly what the farmers want it to be, and if they want good stocks carried at local points they can have them. Of course you have to pay for everything and the better repair stocks you carry the more it will cost you.

We are even asked if we will sell to non-members. This co-operative was established in order to enable its members to buy machinery. We have no desire to sell to non-members. The membership requirements are very simple. Four years ago we set it at 5c per cultivated acre with a minimum investment of share capital of \$10.00. That was the amount most of the farmers of Alberta have subscribed to the capital stock of the district association. You all know that the C. C. I. L. is composed of a number of district associations. Nine are established in Alberta and another three will be set up. The farmer who joins invests in the share capital of the district association. That is reinvested in the capital stock of C. C. I. L. It should be apparent that in order to carry on such an ambitious project as this a ten dollar investment is not enough, and we are asking all those who propose to join and those who have already joined to invest at least 10c per cultivated acre. There is no annual fee of any kind. This is an investment in the capital stock, bears no interest and can be paid back in the case of the death of a member and in the case of a person retiring the shares can be transferred to some new member on the books of the district association.

I notice here in your resolutions a resolution dealing with the standardization of machinery, and I imagine you will approve that resolution. One of the ideas we have in this co-operative is to do that very thing. We realize that in effecting an arrangement with a manufacturer it will be to our interest to reduce the cost of the produce of these machines to the greatest possible extent because we will share in that reduction in the cost of production. By standardization of machinery you can considerably reduce production costs. Of course what you men have in mind, those of you who will support this resolution, is the standardization of machinery in order that you may use parts which are interchangeable. That is another factor and a very important one, and in the standardization we will endeavor to carry out we will be doing the very thing you want in enabling you to change parts from one machine to another and to use parts off a machine that is discarded on a newer machine.

It certainly gives evidence of the interest you men and women have in the affairs of your organization that you will come back again in the evening after sitting here all day. In Manitoba we generally hold our meetings in Winnipeg and we rarely attempt to hold an evening meeting. Of course when farmers get into a place like Winnipeg they get sort of lost, and unfortunately they don't act as you do — they seem to wish they were back at home. I noticed this afternoon that you men came in and acted as natural as if you were in the school house at home, and that is the way we ought to act.

Machinery Costs

Just to make clear to you what sort of savings can be effected, and making no estimate whatsoever of the saving which we can effect through co-operative distribution — in the investigation that took place at Ottawa, that committee had the power to call representatives of all machine companies and question them and examine all their books, which it did. It found that out of every hundred dollars a farmer spent on machinery that his dollars went in this way: \$27.00 approximately will be the cost of the material; \$9.00 for labor cost in manufacturing; factory overhead \$14.00; a total of \$50.00 out of your hundred represents the total manufacturing cost. Freight to a central point took another \$9.00. The freight is exactly equal to the amount of labor. Selling and servicing took \$11.00 out of your hundred. Bad debts and collections took \$6.00 and a margin to cover trade in losses and some part of administration costs took \$9.00. Agent's commission \$15.00. There is where your \$100.00 goes that you spend on farm machinery. Remember that that manufacturing cost of \$50 is based on only a partial utilization of the factory potential of production. If they operated to capacity the manufacturing cost could be reduced. But if you cut out freight (and the freight rates should be reduced because \$9.00 is too big a share to go into freight rates) you save another \$9.00. You can draw your own conclusions as to what savings can be effected through the elimination of these competitive wastes so clearly shown in this picture.

The problems we farmers are facing are common problems. I notice that Mr. McLelland spoke of the necessity for unity. It is necessary to close our ranks. The problems of the farmers in eastern Manitoba and those of the farmers up in the Peace River Block of B. C. and all in between are very, very similar indeed. Those problems are common to us all. We must unite our farm organizations. We must unite together in these various co-operative organizations. I thoroughly sympathize with your idea of attaining parity prices. But I think we should realize the

farmers in this country have almost all power in their own hands. So far as this machinery business is concerned we have the market for all the farmers in Western Canada. If they all joined this organization to unite their buying power we could control the sale of all the machines sold in this country. Every one of the manufacturers would have to channel their goods through us. We don't know our power and that is the trouble. Also we can't get every farmer to join in these co-operatives. If only we would realize our power. I even used to think when driving horses how easy it was to drive them. Many a weary day I have driven 12 of them. I often used to wonder. I would look at them and think that any one of them had far more strength than I. I could drive all twelve of them because they were willing to be driven. The farmers can be driven just so long as they are willing to be driven. You have far more strength and more power than all the machine companies put together. You have in your own hands the market for every machine they have to sell. Those manufacturers didn't build those factories with their own money. We have built every machine factory in this country and we own none of them. When we control the distribution of farm machinery, and in this co-operative we definitely look forward to the day when we will control the distribution of all the machines sold in Western Canada, we can take the next step and you all know what that is.

There will be two main factors in the success of this co-operative, understanding and loyalty on the part of the members because given these two no co-operative is vulnerable; and with capital management and efficient direction of policy, that is all that is needed to insure success. At the present time the co-operative organizations are under attack. Day after tomorrow the commission enquiring into the taxation of co-operatives will be sitting in this city. Not only in that way, but in other ways these co-operatives that we have set up are going to be under increasing attack, and I am quite sure that in a gathering such as this that everyone will agree with me when I say that the best means of defence is to attack. In the co-operative movement there is a wave sweeping these prairies that is phenomenal. During the depression it was difficult to get them started. It is rather remarkable that with this relative prosperity of today, there has developed a very much greater interest in the co-operative movement. Co-operatives are springing up all over these prairies, and if it were not for the restrictions presently in effect far more would be being established than are actually being set up.

I have told you of the response we have had in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to our drive for membership in the C. C. I. L. That is clear evi-

dence of the spirit that is taking hold of the farmers in these provinces, and when we start the campaign here there is no doubt you men will give evidence of the same sort of spirit.

We have three questions to ask every farmer with regard to C. C. I. L. We ask these three questions in this pamphlet: Do you want machinery prices reduced? We all do, of course. If you do, do you know of any way whereby the price can be reduced than through the co-operative effort? If you know of no other way, and I am sure you do not because no one yet has advanced any other means of doing it, if there is no other way, why should anyone hesitate at all for one moment to join this co-operative? Any one who fails to join this co-operative organization, it being the only way to reduce prices, and who is desirous of having them reduced, is in effect saying that he is satisfied with the prices we are presently being charged and with the higher price we will be charged after the war, because the machinery companies stated quite definitely that they are producing machinery at the present time at a loss. Suggestions have been made that machine companies should be subsidized, and they indicate that prices will be raised after the war. What we all want to do is to maintain the prosperity that we are today enjoying, — deplorably so because it took a war to bring it about. We are fighting a war on two fronts. We are fighting a war here at home as your President said in his address and as was stated in your directors' report, for an economic democracy. We should carry on until the only exploitation in this western country is that of nature itself. The co-operative movement can do a great deal to lead in this direction. It is not the only phase. Other actions can be taken and we must take them all, but this is one very concrete thing we can do without any difficulty at all.

Alberta actually in C. C. I. L. is in a key position. In order to carry out your program it is necessary that Alberta keep pace with the other two provinces. We can hardly expect to effect the arrangement we can effect unless Alberta is as strongly behind us as the other two provinces are. There is no doubt that the job is a difficult job. It is a big job, and I have met quite a number of farmers in the other provinces who say that it is too big a job for the farmers to attempt. Well, no matter how big a job is, if it is the only way to solve the problem the only thing to do is go to it. I know every one of you men, if you have hired men working for you and they tell you some particular job has them stuck and you have to go and straighten things out for them you feel pretty irritated. A lot of men lie down too easily. Tackle the job with courage and determination if it must be done.

When Mr. McLelland was talking I was thinking of the days of which I have only read

when old E. A. Partridge and those other men in that first farmers' common organization, the United Grain Growers, went throughout the provinces, mainly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, securing memberships. I remember four years ago being at a place called Killarney speaking and asking the farmers to join C. C. I. L. I think we got about 80 to 90 to join, and one of those men there told me of a meeting in that same hall addressed by E. A. Partridge when his organization, the United Grain Growers, was beginning, and three men joined. That was all. We got about 80 at a meeting in the same hall. Those men had a difficult row to hoe. They showed us the way and we should continue in the same spirit and in doing so there is no doubt whatsoever that we can make of this country a very different one to what it has been.

During the next month or so we will engage in wide-spread publicity throughout Alberta, and then will set up our organization campaign. We will have canvassers in every municipality and township. I hope and I trust that you will decide to put your whole weight behind the organization because with your membership you have a sufficient number to insure C. C. I. L. getting the membership and share capital it requires.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to tell Mr. Brown that we admire the spirit of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and their determination to support C. C. I. L. and I would like to tell him you will give serious consideration to doing our part in this campaign. I would like to also tell him that the Albertans have a competitive spirit about them and once they get going on a certain job that the objective will indeed be reached and surpassed. I am also sure Mr. Brown will be glad to answer any questions you might have regarding his talk to-night or regarding any part or phase of his operations with C. C. I. L.

MR. BURBIDGE: What is the share capital?

MR. BROWN: \$1.00 a share with a minimum of \$10.00 constituting membership.

Q. If you become a member of C. C. I. L. will you be compelled to buy your machinery there only?

A. There is no compulsion of any kind.

Q. What is the maximum amount of shares one man can own?

A. There is no maximum. One farmer in Regina district has \$2,500.00 in it.

Q. One man, one vote?

A. Yes.

MR. WEBBER: Did I understand Mr. Brown to say they might some day pay back the capital investment?

A. That is possible but that is merely a personal opinion.

Q. You know, Mr. Brown, men of my age have invested money a good many times in differ-

ent organizations and whenever that capital sum was paid back we lost our interest in the company. It was a closed corporation after that. We don't want that to happen if we are going into a co-operative farm machinery company for Alberta. We don't want the head office to close us out so we will have to pay Massey-Harris prices after that.

A. I don't think there is any danger of a co-operative organization such as this ever becoming a close corporation. In Manitoba we set up pool elevators some time ago. Each one of the elevators operates as an individual unit. We have a board of directors of each one of these elevator associations. It is handled on a membership basis. \$1.00 constitutes membership in any of those local elevator associations. It is not any violation in any way of co-operative practice to have a co-operative established on that basis.

MR. COLLINS: I would like to ask if it is the policy of the C.C.I.L. to lower the cost of machinery.

A. There is only one reason to join together in C.C.I.L. and that is to reduce the price of machinery. I presume the question you are asking is whether the price will be reduced at the time of purchase or will the saving be shown by means of a patronage dividend.

Q. Not exactly. You state you are going to sell at the same price as other machine companies so there is not much incentive to buy the co-op machinery.

A. Suppose we forthwith reduce the price of machinery and don't sell at the going price. What inducement would there be for the farmer to join the organization and how could we hold it together? Other companies would have to bring their prices down to the level we had established and there would be no incentive for the member to stay with his own co-operative organization. The thing that holds our co-operative together is that a member has to stay with his organization getting his savings later on in the form of a patronage dividend. I will not defend some of the practices in the Old Country where they should long ago have reduced the initial price. In the early years though you dare not start any policy of price cutting. The time will come in this organization when it can be done, and as soon as that position is reached I would most certainly approve and propose the reduction of prices in the first instance.

MR. HAWLEY: Last July I bought a John Deer tractor for \$1,557.00. I understand the man who sold that tractor made about \$450.00 on it. Would that commission go back to the farmers?

A. The agent gets about \$225.00, 15%. Yes, the commission would divert back to the farmer.

Q. About organizing — are you going to get in touch with the local secretaries when you start?

A. Well, I am very anxious to do that. I have no doubt you will endorse the organization and put the weight of your organization behind it.

Q. I would like to ask if the system will be so to speak from factory to family and will do away with these private agencies? Will that be the mode of distribution?

A. No. It could hardly be that. Wherever a local co-operative exists it should be channelled through the local association. Where no local co-operative exists however we must concede the right to every member to procure goods direct from C. C. I. L. itself.

Q. I would like to ask do you mean by that where we have a consumer co-operative handling groceries and hardware and so on that it would handle those lines of machinery?

A. That is up to the local co-operative association. Here in Alberta where you have developed co-operatives largely in groceries, etc. many of them would not care to take the agency for C.C.I.L. In that case the local members in conjunction with the main organization would decide on someone to act as local agent.

Q. In our district we have a large co-op which handles a line of farm machinery and is selling a large amount of it. Our patronage dividends will run to somewhere around 11% this year. That will put them in a rather difficult position. They have been a very good agent for this outfit and are almost married to them, and the outfit is asking them to expand now. They have agreed on the plan of expansion, putting in a tractor repair shop and a truck repair shop. We have quite a large membership of the A.F.U. in the district, and probably will be faced with quite a proposition there. Could you advise us on that?

A. It is too bad when a local co-operative organization nearly gets married to a machinery company. We have the same situation in Manitoba. My own home town co-operative has a machine agency. What they all realize is this, that these local co-operative associations which have agencies for machine companies are going to have their agencies terminated. That has been clearly indicated in the other provinces already. The machine companies will not allow local co-operatives to continue to handle their machines when they figure that as soon as C.C.I.L. gets into a good position they will throw their agency overboard and join up with C.C.I.L. That is the thing they ought to do. They should put their weight behind this organization because all they have been able to do in acting as agent for a machine company has been to save something of the agent's commission. They can save more than that. They should stick together.

MR. LOVELOCK: If you intend to take over the total production of some machinery company

what would happen to their distributing agency now?

A. We would probably take over part of the distribution agencies. Certainly not all of it. The task of effecting distribution of machinery over Western Canada is a huge one. We would prune it and put it in proper shape.

Q. You are importing all of this machinery from the U. S. and you intend to do so.

A. No.

Q. To what extent would it be Canadian made?

A. Our idea is to effect an arrangement with a Canadian manufacturer if it can be done. Failing that we will go elsewhere.

Q. Is there any possibility you can make arrangements with those that control the output of Canadian machinery?

A. You farmers have often given expression to your confidence in your ability to achieve parity prices if the farmers would stick together. We have the market for those machines in our hands. We can lay down the law to the machine companies if we have the members and the money behind us to give us that power. We will have at least 50,000 in this organization and I would assume that the great proportion of those men are determined to see this thing through. If they do that they can bring the companies to time.

Q. The point I wanted to make is that if you are compelled to import these implements in competition with the Canadian makes, won't that take your profits? It is something we don't want to lose sight of.

A. The present administration not only wiped out the tariff on farm machinery but eliminated the war excise tax of 7½%.

Q. But you will admit that tariff is a changeable instrument with every parliament taking a different attitude?

A. I am confident now that farm machinery has been put on the free list and the war excise tax taken off that no administration would dare put it on again.

Q. Do you know the date this tax was taken off. I know the legislation was enacted in March.

A. To the best of my memory I think the first of September.

MR. RIDGES: I gather that Mr. Brown is not in favor of C.C.I.L. reducing the cost of the implements they make because he thinks if they do they will be losing the shareholders in it and the farmers will be losing instead.

A. The only difference between reducing the cost of the machines and paying dividends is this—in the one case you reduce the price at the time of purchase. In the other you reduce the price at the end of the accounting period, at the end of the 12 months period. In C. C. I. L. the earnings in each 12 month period will either be distributed to the members in cash or will be

allocated to them in the books of the organization.

CHAIRMAN, I think we have drilled Mr. Brown at quite some length and I am wondering if you are not through asking questions

MR. McMILLAN: Mr. Brown was very fair in his answers, and I think he almost asked us a question and I think we should decide that tonight before we leave the hall.

CHAIRMAN: There will be something before you for your consideration. If there are no further questions may I on your behalf thank Mr. Brown for his very able and very interesting discussion tonight? He really told us what they have in mind and how they are going to do it and what we could expect to be of benefit to us. I want to tell him too that we appreciate the fact that he is a farmer and has 30 years experience behind him, and we know he knows what he is talking about when he talks about repairs and machinery. I want to say too that we are grateful to him for coming to us tonight and giving this very enlightening talk.

Thank you Mr. Brown.

We now have a resolution from the committee:

MR. RUSSELL: Moved by the Board of Directors of the Alberta Farmers Union that we recommend to the convention that they give their support to the organization drive of the C.C.I.L.

MR. MACDONALD: I move that.

MR. COLLINS: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: Are you all in favor? Carried.

MR. MacMILLAN: I think we should move a resolution instructing our board of directors to do everything possible to further the interest of C.C.I.L. I wish to move that the delegates assembled in this convention go on record as instructing our incoming board to do everything possible to assist C.C.I.L. in the organization work of putting across their drive for funds.

MR. KUSIK: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor? Carried.

Although the hour was late the delegates warmly received two more.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS

Mr. Hugh Allan, President of the A. L. C., brought fraternal greetings from that organization and Mr. A. Wood performed a similar office on behalf of the U.F.A.

Motion to adjourn at 11:00.

For Sale

CHOICE QUALITY YORKSHIRES
from advance registered stock; weanlings, boars and gilts. My stock is from the best herds in Canada. For prices, etc., write
Mr. W. Dallaire, Mallaig, Alberta.

Wednesday Morning, January 24th

at 9:30

Resolutions were again taken up and number 9 page 3 re "Bangs disease." Carried.

Number 10 page 36 re T. B. test was amended to make testing compulsory. Carried.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Of which due notice of motion had been given were then dealt with and Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 all on page 23 and continuing over to page 24 were all LOST and No. 16 page 24 failed to find a sponsor.

Only two resolutions were passed which actually made a change in the by-laws this year and that was No. 18 on page 24 and No. 34 on page 7 of the Supplement. The first resolution proposed the striking out of sections 41, 42 and 43 and replacing these with the three contained in the Program under the heading "Change in organization of Districts." However the delegates decided to leave sections 41, 42 and 42a as they appear on the constitution handbook and then to add two further sub-sections to be known as 42b and 42c as follows:

42b. Each sub-district shall hold an Annual Rally at which a sub-director and a committee of not less than 5 members shall be elected in sufficient time so that the District Convention can be held before 31st of July. (about 8 Provincial Polls, to each committee man).

42c. The District Officers shall meet immediately after the District Convention and at least every three months thereafter.

The delegates approved of adding a subsection to be known as 10b after section 10 to read as follows: "Any director representing a district of the Association on the central board shall cease to hold that office upon being elected to the Executive Committee.

Lady Member of Executive

A motion to make absolute provision for a woman to be on the Executive Committee by increasing the number of that committee to 5 was lost, but later on the delegates gave instructions to the incoming board to make such provision for consideration of next convention in the following resolution:

WHEREAS we the members of the Alberta Farmers' Union believe it is in the best interest of our organization that at least one woman be a member of the Executive Committee,

WHEREAS there is no provision made in our Constitution to make this certain,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming Board of Directors draw up a consti-

tutional amendment to be dealt with by the Annual Convention whereby at least one woman be a member of the Executive Committee.

This was carried and consequently will have to be provided for by a change in the by-laws at the next convention.

Co-op Union of Canada

This matter was dealt with by Mr. A. MacDonald who is Supervisor of the Co-operative Union of Canada and is a dynamic speaker. His address follows:

CHAIRMAN: The next order of business will be the speaker on your program, Mr. A. B. MacDonald, who is organizer for the Co-operative Union of Canada.

MR. NESTMAN: I will call upon Mr. MacDonald to proceed.

MR. MACDONALD: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. I want to refer to this blackboard and I hope everyone can hear me. I have grown extremely nervous since I came into this hall. I recognize you have a real convention here and am afraid I cannot keep you interested and tell a story of real value. I don't think I have ever attended a convention where I have seen such vigor and attention to duty as I have seen this morning. That is the kind of convention we really should have, so I am a bit nervous. I am particularly nervous because I don't know whether I am coming or going these days. It is very much like the story of the argument between Father Casey and the Baptist minister. They were arguing over hell. Father Casey said it was pretty tough, fire and brimstone and all that. The Baptist minister said it was not so tough and might be interpreted in a milder form. Father Casey said, I don't care, I prefer to be a Catholic and know I am going to hell than to be a Baptist minister and not know where the hell I'm going.

For the past three weeks we have been pretty busy engaged in this whole income tax enquiry that you know about. You all know the co-operative movement is facing a pretty tough attack brought about by the profit making section of our Canadian economy. So a Royal Commission has been appointed and has had sittings in Vancouver and Calgary and tomorrow and next day will be sitting in Edmonton. The preparation and the planning of a program for our co-operative organizations in order that they may be adequately represented before this commission certainly kept us on the move and I have been going around pretty fast and really have not given much

thought to the talk I am going to give this morning.

I think I should apologize for being here at all. I think it was a last moment decision that some of your leaders decided it would be of value to have me tell you something of the Co-operative Union of Canada. I don't know whether they were in earnest or just wanted to see what I looked like.

I think I will tell you the story of a grain broker who was walking down the street and was accosted by a bum. The bum was a real bum—ragged and dirty. He wanted fifty cents. Have a couple of cigars, said the grain broker. I don't smoke, replied the bum. That's all right, come on down to the bar room. I don't drink. Well, how about coming with me in my car and we'll get a couple of ladies and take them to the theatre? No, said the bum, I want fifty cents to get something to eat. Well, I know what we will do—you come on home with me right now. The bum thought this a queer request and said so. Maybe it is, said the broker, but I want to take you home and show my wife what happens to a man who does not smoke, drink or entertain the ladies.

Now the topic I want to talk to you on today and give you some information on is the organization I represent. In order to do that adequately I must of necessity tell you a little something about your national farmers' organization, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. There is some misunderstanding with respect to the need to two national organizations. We hear arguments in many provinces to the effect that now that we have a national farmers' organization knows as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (and I take it that the A.F.U. through your provincial unit is affiliated with that organization) there is some misunderstanding as to the purpose and function and need of the two organizations, and so some two or three weeks ago I prepared a large chart that would show specifically and distinctly the difference between the two. I have drawn a chart here for you.

As far as I can see the whole Canadian picture we must have two national organizations and we must be loyal to both. It's like the story of the soldier who went to get a card to send to his girl. What do you think of this one, asked the clerk. It is beautiful, he said, and wrote on it "to the one and only girl in the world." Now, he said, give me five, no give me six more of those.

So as far as I can see it the Canadian men and women on the land must have two loyalties, to the national Co-operative organization, and to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. You may draw a few distinctions. According to the whole set up the membership that will make up the

Canadian Federation of Agriculture is the professional organization for the Canadian farm men and women, the C.I.O. of the Canadian agricultural worker. It is the national vocational organization for the Canadian farmers. Farmers whether co-operative or not are taken in by that federation, irrespective of other leanings.

Now I am not going to take long with this. What are the main functions of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture? You know them as well as I do. Export markets. If we are going to have foreign trade developed in such a way that the farmers will get a break the farmers must predominate in determining its policies. The developing of our export markets must be determined by the sound scientific thinking of the producers on the land. Subsidies, floors, ceilings, rural health, education, etc., all the wide range of vocational topics you have been discussing must be of prime concern to the federation. That federation is build up as you very well know by having units organized in the various provinces. Here in Alberta you have an Alberta Federation of Agriculture and you take in all your farmers' organizations to make a provincial organization and that gives strength and stability and permanency to the national organization. You have district meetings and you have locals, and they reach right down to the people. Back in your local where you organize your study clubs to discuss these things and their importance to the Canadian agricultural industry. This section is the most important phase of the whole structure. I am satisfied from long experience that if the farmers are not going to be audible in respect to these big national commissions they will not get very far and to make them so we must see that our local study groups are discussing and analyzing these questions in a very intelligent manner. That is your national vocational organization.

Now coming over here to your national co-operative organization which is called the Co-operative Union of Canada — and to those of you who do not know we have had one in existence since 1909. Back 35 or 36 years ago we did not have very many co-operatives in Canada but the few there were and particularly the consumer co-operatives in Eastern Canada, headed by people from the Old Country who were accustomed to and acquainted with the movement and developed the consumer co-operatives, got together and organized this national organization known as the Co-operative Union of Canada, and it has gone down the last 35 or 36 years giving very splendid direction and advice to the co-operative development in this country. And in 1909 and 1910 and 1911 I think your big producer co-operative movements started here in Western Canada. So today we have a more diversified co-operative

program and a larger one than we had thirty-five years ago.

Since this Co-operative Union of Canada was inadequately financed and understaffed and didn't have the resources to work with it could not possibly as a national organization give the assistance and direction to the co-operative movement in Canada that was needed. About two years ago some of the top leaders in the movement in this country came together at Regina and decided on a definite organizational set-up for the national organization and determined it on the basis of this kind. They will organize in every province a provincial co-operative union. There will be one in each province. And when these co-operative unions are organized they will be federated into the Co-operative Union of Canada. They suggested an entirely different organization procedure than we had known during the past twenty-five years. We have been going along during the last two years developing provincial unions and so we have to-day a co-operative union in Nova Scotia, one in Prince Edward Island, one in New Brunswick in the making. The Superior Council of Co-operation is operating in Quebec. Ontario has organized one. Saskatchewan has had one for the last three or four years, and within the past year British Columbia organized what is called the British Columbia Co-operative Union, so we hope that before many months are over we will have a union in every province, and sometime next summer we shall call a National Co-operative Congress at some central spot to set the co-operative union on its feet in such a way that it will have resources and it will be strong enough to take care of all the needs of every aspect of the most diversified program of co-operative endeavor such as we have in Canada. Manitoba is in process of reorganization right now.

You will say, how are you going to proceed to organize the provincial unit? Here is the method suggested. All the local co-operatives, and you have locals of consumer co-ops, local elevator companies, local poultry organizations, various types of local co-operatives, will have the privilege of becoming affiliated directly with the Alberta Co-operative Union. They will pay dues into the Alberta Co-operative Union and will have the privilege of sending one or two or three or four or five delegates to the Provincial Co-operative Convention. In addition to the locals we will have Federations of Co-operatives. Your wholesales and wheat pools and so on will also have delegates at your annual meeting of the provincial organization. That in brief is your organizational set-up.

Don't forget this will take in every known type of co-operative you have in the province; it will take in all classes interested in the movement and they will be represented by delegates coming from the locals. Credit unions will come in also.

Your provincial meeting will represent all classes of people, all kinds of co-operatives, and everyone in the province who is interested in this whole general movement. You will say, what are the main functions of the provincial Co-operative Union. I have listed here the jobs that the Co-operative Union of Canada is going to be called upon to do, but before outlining this section I want to show you the membership under your National Co-operative Union will take in not only farmers but fishermen, canners, etc—anyone who is interested in the movement.

Let's go back to the jobs. The jobs that the Co-operative Union is to do. Here they are listed here roughly—co-operative publicity. Do you think we have enough men and women in Canada to-day informed on the co-operative movement. You know we haven't. We still have one big job of bringing the history and philosophy of the movement to the people and showing them the social significance of the movement as a whole. There is a big job—to go into our urban centres and tell our organized workers what the co-operative movement can do to promote economic security. I put it this way. If some farm organization in Canada would give me \$100,000 and say you go ahead and work out a program to benefit the men and women on the land in Canada, I would not go to the rural district at all but to the urban centres and the organized industrial workers across Canada and I would be helping indirectly the people interested in agriculture in this country. We will not get very far on the road to security unless we have the consumers in the cities organized so we can move the produce from the land in the co-operative way right through.

There is an educational job to develop the right thinking as between urban and rural people. There is a job. A great publicity job, in press and radio and by every means that can be used to bring the message to more people.

Education. Once you arouse the interest of the people then there is the job of educating them to make good co-operators out of them. We must develop co-operators before we get co-operatives. Convince people and then teach them to understand the basic significance of the movement. That is wholly and simply a question of education. So your national and provincial organizations must be ever on the march insofar as promoting educational methods that bring knowledge of the co-operative movement to the people in order to give them the information necessary to make them good co-operators.

Planning. We must not use a hit or miss program. For instance you get a group of enthusiastic people who want a storage plant, and the people will go ahead willingly without any regard

to whether that plant is placed in the proper position with respect to the whole provincial development. In other words there must be planning in our co-operative development, provincial and national, to see that we have the proper number of institutions to give service to our people, and that there will be no duplication or competing.

Organizing. The job of going out and organizing. All across Canada in our rural areas we need more credit unions and stores and service station co-operatives and manufacturing plants and local community industries, and all that job is a job of organization, because these things won't just come by chance. These things don't just happen. No matter how enthusiastic people may be there must be people to assist them.

Supervision. We must be sure that the movement is kept pure and that it operates according to true co-operative principles. We must be sure we are on the right road and are following it at every turn. I know some co-operators who are violating fundamental principles and don't know it. There is a real task in keeping the old and new co-operatives on the right co-operative road and to see that they adhere to the right principles and will do the right thing.

Protection. Right now we are head and heels into one of the toughest jobs with which we have ever been faced. It is an investigation of the whole income tax question. I rather suspect the co-operatives in Canada would be in rather a sorry state were it not that we did have a national organization in Canada to protect their interests. It is rather interesting to know that in our procedure so far in our presentation to the Royal Commission we can make them in an organized way, where all the co-operators of the province can come together. It is certainly going to be much more effective and receive a more interested hearing than perhaps approaching them in a disorganized way.

Nationally and provincially we must organize the co-operatives in order that we may present a united front in order to protect our rights and secure the necessary legislation for further building of our co-operatives.

That in brief is the story. Sometime we will come to Alberta and meet other organizations and try to tell this story a great deal more in detail to the people of Alberta so that sometime we will have a provincial co-operative union working with the other provincial unions across the provinces, federated into a national organization to do the big job that must be done after the last shell has exploded, to develop a bigger and better co-operative movement across Canada, to give greater power and influence to gain the needs of the common people.

Here we have a vocational organization. How are you going to put strength and power back of that bargaining organization in keeping with the development of your co-operative movement, in keeping with the ownership based in the hands of the common people? Chas. Beard said that democracy is dependent on the wide distribution of ownership. If ownership is centred in the hands of a few, democracy dies, and again historically speaking, it is the ownership of the vital economic processes of the country that determine human destiny. We must move into the ownership of the institutions that have in the past been taking profit away from the masses of the people. If we are going to give power and influence to the people on the land, to the people in the factory, so we can build up a democracy, that power will come from the ownership of business because the power and influence of the people we see who are not running Canada in a democratic way comes from the ownership of stores and banks and wholesales and so on.

If our organization will have vigor and strength we must have a wider and more diversified program of co-operative endeavor whereby people in country and cities will become owners of a greater portion of the economic institutions of the country. That will give us the power to go ahead and determine we will enjoy freedom from want in the future and that we and our children and our children's children will enjoy economic security in the days to come.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure you enjoyed Mr. MacDonald's speech. I believe a vote of thanks is coming to Mr. MacDonald.

Following this address the chairman announced that the time had arrived to accept nominations for president for the coming term.

NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT

Nine members were nominated for the office of president but all withdrew except two. These were Mr. Jackson and Mr. McGowan, who both accepted nomination and were given five minutes each to make a speech of acceptance to the delegates.

After both nominees had spoken, the short remaining time was taken up with a continuation of the discussion on by-law No. 1 but upon motion by Olson and Dennington it was tabled until the afternoon.

Adjournment was then moved until 2 p. m.

NOTICE

Attention farmers of Meadowview, Cherhill, Ballantine, Midway, Pembridge and Stewartfield.

The Department of Agriculture is sending speakers to Meadowview Hall the afternoon of March 9th to deal with Farmers' Problems. Please attend as this service is for your benefit.

Afternoon Session, Wednesday, January 24th

One of the very interesting events of the Convention was a display of wood carving done by Mr. Rice Sheppard, one of our members. This work was performed by Mr. Sheppard since he passed his 75th birthday and after the Secretary had made the following announcements regarding his work Mr. Sheppard, who is 85, spoke a few words to the Convention.

Mr. Rice Sheppard was the first life member of the U. F. A. and in introducing him Mr. Nichols remarked that the only way to make Mr. Sheppard change his mind on any subject was to convince him that he was wrong.

— ANNOUNCEMENT —

To the President and Board of the Alberta Farmers' Union:

I extend a very cordial invitation to you, your Board, also to your delegates, to see a Farmers' exhibit of carvings and handicraft work in the Empire room of the Hudson Bay Store, there is no charge, just a free will offering, and all proceeds will be given to our wounded returned men in hospital to buy comforts. I think you will agree a very worthy cause. Every article in this exhibit is the work of a farmer since his 75th year of age.

The exhibit will be open until next Friday. I trust you can find time to see it.

Yours very truly,
Rice Sheppard.

After this the delegates returned to the discussion on by-law No. 1 and the motion to adopt the resolution was lost so by-law No. 1 remains unaltered.

Two important events were now about due to arrive simultaneously. The result of the election for the President and an address by Mr. Morton Thompkins, Master of the Oregon State Grange. The result of an election always compels a considerable amount of attention but even with this interesting matter in the minds of the delegates, they gave their concentrated attention to the speaker from the National Grange, that great farmers' organization of our cousins south of the line. Every remark was followed with intense interest, punctuated by approving applause when the speaker made his point, which he never failed to do, and at the close he received a tremendous ovation for his really splendid address.

Mr. Thompkins was introduced by Mr. Jackson, President of the Alberta Farmers' Union.



Mr. Morton Thompkins

Mr. Thompkins, Master of the Oregon State Grange, speaking on behalf of the National Grange, of the United States.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure and great privilege to introduce a farmer from south of here, Mr. Morton Thompkins. Mr. Thompkins comes from south of an imaginary line which runs between our two countries, but which does not divide us. He is a western farmer, but like so many of ourselves he started out as a workman, working for wages before engaging in farming. He is still actively engaged in farming. He served as a member of the legislature for the state of Oregon for two years, and is serving his second term as Master of the Oregon State Grange, which functions in 37 of the states of the Union, and which has a membership of approximately 800,000. Three United States farmers were chosen in 1943 to make a tour of Great Britain on the invitation of the British Government. Mr. Thompkins was chosen to represent the Grange. I feel sure every one of us will be deeply interested in what he has to tell us.

Ladies and gentlemen, this, I believe, is a very great occasion. We have with us this fellow farmer from south of this imaginary line I mentioned, and we all know that the world is getting

smaller and smaller each day, and we want to get all the time a greater understanding between farmers and all our people all across the world, and we are making an attempt to get a closer understanding between our two great countries by bringing Mr. Thompkins here today. Without any further remarks, I wish to introduce Mr. Morton Thompkins.

Mr. Thompkins' Address

MR. THOMPKINS: Mr. President, my brothers and sisters of Canada. I want to say to you I am happy to be here today. I don't want you to think I am a preacher because I am behind a pulpit. (Mr. Thompkins had to use a raised pulpit for his notes because his eyesight is not strong). I want to bring you greetings and good wishes from the Master of the National Grange, Albert E. Goss. He regrets he was unable to be here at this time, and I was asked to come and do my best on this occasion. I feel humble to meet with you folks who so solidly represent the agricultural industry of your great commonwealth. I am rather like the boy going to school and his teacher asked him to make a sentence out of the word "living", and he wrote on the board, "I am glad I am livin". She said, you are wrong, try again. He wrote it the same way again. The teacher said: "You forgot the 'g'". So he wrote: "Gee, I am glad I am livin."

As I come to talk to you folks today I feel the importance of the occasion. There is no nation, no group of people outside of our own country that we feel as dear to us as we do you people to the north. You almost seem one of us. I want to say to you people, to those of you who sent your sons and your manpower across to fight for democracy before we did, we are proud that we too are fighting side by side with your manpower wherever they may be on land, on sea or in the air, in the world. Our boys are dying side by side in the foxholes for what we believe is a just cause.

It was pointed out to you that I had made the trip to Britain a year ago last fall. I did. And while I was there I drove over that land in a car furnished by the Department of Agriculture of Great Britain, and I had the opportunity of going from place to place and I saw the camps of the Canadian boys and of the American boys. I saw them everywhere I went. And I want to say to you that I saw also the ruins of an embattled Britain, and I came back from that country, realizing that Britain had made a great sacrifice for us over there. Particularly did I bring that back to my own people. Little will they know, maybe never will they realize what it meant for Britain to stay put — to "take it" as

the expression goes, that way, and I say we in the United States feel it keenly and appreciate it.

Women in Union

As I come to address your organization I am happy indeed that it is an organization of men and women. I am glad the women are a part of your organization, and as I speak of the women I want to say a little additional word about a thing we are extremely proud of in the Grange in this 78th year of existence. We are proud that it was the first organization that ever gave women equal rights in an organization of that kind. They can hold any office in that organization.

Now, I want to go to Britain again. I want to pay tribute to the women of Britain. The people of Britain will tell you that they owe a lot to the women of Britain, that they were the ones that urged them to fight, and who were willing to go to any length for the sake of preserving their country's and other people's existence. I was at a loss to know why, as I attended the British farm meetings, there were no women present. Outside of that the whole trend of conversation that took place made me think I was at home in my own meetings, except that I missed the part the women played in our organization in America.

At one meeting I went to — a farmers' union meeting — there were three women came out. They listened to the talk all the way through, and I went out of my way to congratulate them for coming out and taking part in the farm organization problems. I addressed them particularly and told them what we are doing in our country, and urged them to bring their sisters out for the next meeting and get them to take part in the program. And when the time came for applause only about three people applauded me, and those were those three women. When I started to go out the door, I met a big Irishman and he said: "I can tell you we have trouble enough without having the women joining with us." But as I went out the door, I shall never forget the hand clasp of appreciation I got from those three women. And as I stand before you today, I sincerely hope that Britain's agriculture will give the women their rightful place in the organization.

I must point out to you the Women's Land Army of Britain and the contribution they made to Britain's agriculture. You know this story and I must talk about it a little because I sense the attitude the higher-ups had prior to the war. There is a certain group that believes that agriculture is made to exploit. I believe it has a place in the very economic structure of humanity. Not until the submarines surrounded Britain and were destroying the food ships as they came in

did they come to the realization that agriculture had to come into its own, and that unless agriculture could do something for them they were not going to eat — and that makes people think. Then they began talking about agriculture. It had been a neglected industry. Then, you know the story. How they brought in modern machinery — tractors and so on. I heard Mr. Hudson say to me that if it had not been for the tractors that came from America, and the other modern machinery, Britain could never have done the job. And as I walked over the pastures and the hills with those farmers, how they talked our language! I seemed a part of them. They told me their gratitude for this machinery that had come to them and made it possible for them to do the job, and to plow up those old playgrounds and hunting grounds that food might be sown.

Out of it all comes something else, and as I discussed these problems the British farmer was thinking of the future, as you are today and as the people of the United States are thinking. To me this is of great importance. I hope occasions such as this cover the earth. We need organization in agriculture. I heard these people talking to me about the future, and they said before the war they were the forgotten men. How about you? We in America were. I remember full well in 1934 and 1935, when I saw men, the finest types of farmers you ever saw, ready to take their pack on their back and walk off and leave their farm but there was no place to go. That was the time they liked to tell us we were the rugged individualists. If we don't come to our own, when that time comes we will be ragged individualists.

Farmers Efficient in Production

It is well for us to pause and take note, and it is well for others to remember that of all those groups that were requested to be ready for war, when war came what group was ready? — agriculture — they had their granaries running over. Everything was full. And what about the other groups? — well, when enough machinery had been produced so it would congest the market, production was shut down. I want to bring another thought to you. If people are going to live and have the necessities of life, there must be an agricultural surplus, because of seasons and weather conditions and pests. You cannot plan just the meagre amount or someone will go hungry some years. There must be a surplus, and it is a terrible state of affairs when the people that feed the world are penalized because they have created a surplus.

I don't know anything about your national debt. I do know there is considerable discussion in the United States about that subject and what will happen when the war is over. There are many people wondering what we are going to do

about it, and what it will do to our tax structure. It is a matter of common discussion. I may not be certain of many things, but I am certain of this, that unless the national income is kept up on a basis in keeping with when those debts were contracted, agriculture is going into a serious tailspin. How are we going to keep it up? That is one of the problems confronting us face to face today. How are we going to do this job? I cannot believe that anyone would disagree with me in the statement that the thing we should do is to see that our customers have an income to buy our commodity. Who are our customers? The working people. They must have an income to be able to have purchasing power. So there is a commonness of ground and a common relationship between the farmer and the consumer, the worker. But we must remember this — that they have to have buying power and the farmer must have the buying power. The relationship goes further. We in the United States like to say that the farmer must have his fair share of the nation's income, and I can take you back to the time when we constituted about 25% of the population and our income was less than 10% of the nation's income. It is easy to see what happens under this condition. It did happen.

As time has gone on we have seen that condition change. And again I say to you — what a pity that we have to put our manpower in the battlefields of war to bring prosperity. It is a challenge to civilization. It is an indictment we must overcome.

As I think of that situation I can tell you we have much discussion on it in the United States, and I want to pause for a moment. As I discuss the United States and the farm organizations down there, I want you to bear with me because I must talk from that point of view, because I am more acquainted with it. We have had discussion there as to free enterprise. I am going to tell you that the last bulwark of free enterprise is the farmer and when you mortgage his property you are destroying that very thing, free enterprise. Let them cry free enterprise as they may, but insist — yes, we want free enterprise, but we want it passed around so everyone has their share of it.

Co-Operation!

As I go along I am reminded of incidents, and I think those incidents are a good thing for a discussion sometimes. I have in mind a story of an old man and a young man going along the path of life through a long hot day, and they found no water to drink. As the day wore along and time passed away they became thirstier and thirstier. Finally as evening came on they saw a beautiful home upon a hill. Below the hill was

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Editorial

This year, 1945, there were 537 delegates to the Alberta Farmers' Union Convention, sent in by over 400 locals and representing a membership of over 20,000. Yes, the Union has grown in the last few years and it is becoming a powerful body.

Farmers all over the World are waking up. The brotherly touch conveyed so intimately by the speaker from the National Grange, roused our convention to responsive enthusiasm. Over 800,000 farmers are represented by that one body and there are three other similar great farm bodies in the United States. When the farmers representatives get together they just naturally seem to be of one big family. National differences sink into the background and the common philosophy of producing in abundance that all the World may be fed generously and kindly, is uppermost in their minds. Of course the farmer must get a fair price for what he raises. It is essential that this should be so; but in his own kindly natural philosophy this takes second place, important though it is. The farmers first thoughts are for good tillage and plentiful production. These are things he is wishful to perform and it is only because of an unbalanced economic system which compels him almost against his will to rebel when he is asked to accept comparative poverty in the form of low prices in return for his own plentiful production. Farmers in Britain where they are organized 180,000 strong are determined that such unbalanced arrangements shall not be imposed on Agriculture any more. In New Zealand and Australia the farmers realize the necessity of organizing in unions and the idea of international working agreements are taking hold. The visiting group of British farmers who will be in Canada shortly after their trip to Australia and New Zealand will no doubt do much to strengthen this idea.

However farmers are not combining be-

cause they are in sympathy with the idea of bringing about an artificial scarcity. The farmers are at one in advocating plentiful production and they will do their part faithfully and well. There is no doubt about that and it will be the responsibility of the Governments of the countries mentioned to see that the plentiful production of the farmers is made available to the working people of all these countries on equitable terms while the farmers themselves will be able to purchase sufficient of the products of industry to enjoy a reasonable standard of living as a result of a working day which leaves sufficient leisure time to really enjoy life.

Of course these remarks apply to Peace Time conditions. While the war is on we must go the limit but also never lose sight of the vision for the future.

We are trying to build this Union to accomplish a certain result i.e. Parity Prices for Farm Products and that is the only justification for the existence of the Union which was called into being because of the unsatisfactory conditions which were prevailing.

DEATH OF ROBERT GARDINER

By the passing of Robert Gardiner the West has lost a man who has put in many years of earnest endeavour on behalf of Agriculture.

He was respected by all who knew him for the sincerity of his beliefs and he will long be remembered by many outside the ranks of Agriculture for the fight he made to have the Beauharnois power case investigated.

He was president of the U. F. A. for the past 14 years and there is no doubt that he was unsparing of himself in his devotion to that organization and to the general cause of Agriculture.

There have been a number of requests from time to time for Head Office to have printed a combined Cash and Minute book for the convenience of our local secretaries.

We have made enquires and we could have such a book printed with durable binding which could be sold to local for \$1.50 provided at least 700 were sold.

We would like to hear from all those secretaries who would be willing to buy such a book because the price is dependent entirely on the number we have printed.

If only a small number is required the cost per book would be much higher and it will be left to the judgment of the Executive in that case whether it would be advisable to have them printed.

Will all secretaries who are interested please advise us right away.

Mr. Thompkins' Address

(Continued from page 23)

a pump. They hurried over to this well and began working that pump, and a little water finally came. But very little. Still thirsty they walked up the hill and there sat a man on the porch of this beautiful home. They asked him what was the matter with his well. He answered — there is nothing wrong with that pump. When you were pumping and getting that little stream for yourselves, you were filling my tank up here on the hill. That is a good pump, and it serves me well.

And at our meetings, is it asking too much, is it too radical, to ask for what is yours? I say to you that whatever language they speak or whatever nation it is, it is right and it is encouraging as we look the world over to see a springing up of organizations with that thought in mind. When someone says, we want free enterprise, we of the Grange say, yes, but not monopoly. The trouble is that some of those boys that talk free enterprise want a monopoly, and in too many instances they have it. We have quite a strong co-operative movement in the United States. We believe in it when it is properly carried out. The Grange in my state and neighboring states on the coast have organized and sponsored co-operative corporations under the guidance of the Grange. We furnish our members with those things necessary on the farm on a co-operative basis. In the state of Washington they have some 30 branches throughout the state to serve their people. The trouble with the co-operative system is this, that there are a lot of good pioneer stock, people that wanted to do something for their fellow men, that build a co-operative and bring benefits to others that don't participate in it. In my country at the time we started handling petroleum products the service stations were getting a nickel a gallon for handling gas. We paid for our units in one year. The oil companies saw that what we were doing was going to show them up, so they cut the profit to the distributor from five cents to what it is today. The man that does not patronize the co-op is getting the benefit of that lower cost when he didn't contribute a penny. I heard of a woman once who had a neighbor who owned a filling station. She said, we asked these people to come in and join the co-operative movement. They said no. This good woman rather questioned her husband about it, thinking they would take business from her neighbor. But they went ahead, and she got back a cheque for \$75.00 as a patronage dividend. Then she said — now I know who bought Mrs. Jones that mink coat a few years ago.

I heard of another instance of co-operation.

At this meeting they decided to put a barrel just inside the door and everyone was to bring a quart of wine and pour it in the barrel. They all put in something, and the last man poured in a quart of water. But when they went to get the wine, it was all water. If that is the kind of co-operation you think will get anywhere you are wrong. But it is the kind that is being played by the other guy.

Parity Prices

Now we are all interested in parity prices. We want real parity though. We in the United States, the Grange particularly, want a new definition of parity written. We are not just sure we have been sure ourselves of the right definition of parity. We do believe, and think we know that when you make a parity price based on the years just previous to 1939 you are setting the basis at the wrong time. We are firmly convinced that in working out a parity formula it must include the cost of labor on your farm at a fair price.

As I came up on the plane yesterday and as I looked out the window as we came over the wide expanse of territory which the thrifty pioneers and farmers and stockmen have made what it is today, I could not help but think that that imaginary line didn't matter much. The thought that strikes me is the thought that the ones that have made possible the development of all that area are entitled to all the advantages of the natural resources of that area in time to come. We have a common tie, our two nations, that can never be changed. Nothing in the power of man can change that. Within our boundaries flow the beautiful streams and the great waterways. That power turns the wheels of industry in our area, irrigates our fields to a great extent. We in the Grange in the United States have steadfastly fought for the provision that the natural resources of the country belong to the people. I happened to be connected with the Bonnyville Power Administration and also with the Grand Coulee dam. I worked with them as a consultant. We have in the West particularly the idea of going out and fighting for public ownership of power, and one of the reasons I am hurrying back is because they are trying to scuttle our share while I am gone, and I don't like it. The ships built in Portland would have been impossible to build if it had not been for that public power development on the Columbia River. It is generated at 2½ mills per kilowatt hour, the cheapest in America, and we are not going to let that power be turned over to some private monopoly to get profit on if we can help it.

Speaking now of the post-war period, and the fact that the workers must be able to pay for what we produce, we have some aluminum plants on the Columbia. We are afraid they are

going to fade away when the war is over. We are talking of heating our homes with power. We have no coal to speak of, and we are thinking of turning on a switch in our home to warm up the room before going downstairs in the morning. Why not? And as we think of that great power that was made by the Creator, why should it not make our home life pleasanter? Why should we not cook without dirt and smoke?

What are we thinking about in our planning? You have heard that the President gave his O.K. on seven authorities — one of those is the Missouri Valley authority. A lot of that water comes from your area. The water from the Columbia River comes from your area. In these authorities we are going to set aside state lines. In the Columbia River authority we want certain states, in the Missouri Valley certain states. Those authorities, if they have their way, are going to try to plan the development and rebuilding of the soils and timber resources which have been used by people who took big profits. Down my way our hills are black with snags that resemble a cemetery, skimmed over and left desolate by a group that thought they should make money out of them and then let them go back to the state for taxes. We believe the time has come to rebuild this type of country and reforest it for generations to come. Those are things that are going to be taken into consideration in those authorities.

Chemurgy.

The development of mineral resources — as I discuss our planning for post-war, one of the bills we have in the state legislature of Oregon is a bill asking for a substantial appropriation for chemurgy experimental work. The time has come for this work. Certain monopoly groups don't want things developed that will interfere with their present practices. Cartels is the word they use, and we found some of our boys in partnership with those fellows in Germany making shells to shoot our boys. We don't like it. And we are not going to let it happen again. Fifty or sixty miles from Portland the government has put in a two million dollar plant to experiment with making alcohol from sawdust. Farm chemurgy if you please. They tell me that they will make not wood alcohol, but the kind some people think is good for them and will make it for fifteen cents a gallon. Do you know we got that appropriation through and then lost it? Why? Do you think the molasses people want it? No! The petroleum people? No! We had the battle of our lives and if we had not had friends in congress, that experiment would not have taken place. It is well to have friends in your law making bodies that are close to the people. Keep them there. Now then. This is going to be music to your ears. You are going to wonder

where the poor farmer will get off at. They are going to make it into coffee then after the alcohol is taken out. That experiment is going to be carried on. It will produce for the dairy diet some of those things we need too. We hope this chemurgy will find new uses for your crops.

I want to say a word on wheat. When our granaries were running over we thought it would be a fine suggestion if we would put in some machinery to experiment with making alcohol out of wheat. We got just nicely started and we sent a couple of high standing men that would never have believed this situation (they were publishers) back to Washington, and for a month they beat the pavement around the offices of Washington to try and get a license to test out the making of alcohol out of wheat, and they came home empty handed. Then came the war. The wheat surplus began to vanish. But we have not forgotten.

Let us turn to the south. Cotton is agriculture's greatest problem in the States. We of the west and north who know our country are seriously concerned about the south. We have a problem and we admit it. I made a trip through there about two weeks ago, and I want to tell you I found conditions that are deplorable. I found homes with no windows but just boarding up. The Rural Electrification Act loaned money to the farm co-operative to build their own power lines with and the government helped them out, and they have been damned by a certain group ever since. There are miles and miles of that line over that country. It must be a great thing to have an electric light in a home without glass in the windows, whether the owners are black or white. I am going to tell you a little story about this situation. In the south we have big plantations, corporation farming, absentee ownership, and we of the Grange don't like it, and are not going to permit it to spread if we can help it. We want machinery for the family sized farm. I talked to a plantation man who said he had 10,000 acres and he had five foremen. He said he had three or four hundred people working at certain times, and he had a hundred at work all the time, and they were sharecroppers. You know their story. There is only one farm organization in that area, and I asked him about that. He said we only have one. I said, do these crop share farmers belong to that? Oh no, he said, they can't handle their own business. We work out the program for them and once a year we give them a barbecue. That organization was not the Grange. I want you to know that. They are paying farm workers thirty-five and forty cents an hour. If that was a foreign country, the good tariff country would say, let's put on a tariff because we can't compete with that low priced labor down there. That is a thing we are intensely dissatisfied with.

Surplus Production

There was a negro on a plantation, and finally at the season the time came for an accounting with him. He had traded at the company store, paid 10% interest, bought at the price they fixed, they had given him credit. The manager called Sam in and said, you have certainly done well. You have 75 dollars left, and all your bills are paid. That's fine, he said, but boss, what is bothering me is what I am going to do with that six bales hidden out behind the barn. Well, said the manager, I will have to figure this whole thing over again.

In London I went to the British Broadcasting Company to watch a film taken of food conditions through the world prior to the war. The first thing I saw was the starving millions of India. But you can imagine my humiliation when the next picture was of the undernourished and underfed of the United States. Was my face red? It was. I am bringing this to you, and before I close this talk today I hope I clinch my thought that there is no such thing as a surplus and there should not be. There is a place in this great world for all we produce if we can only get that buying power to the people who will offer to buy it and use it.

I must turn to production again. I have read of the job you folks have done. You are proud of it. You should be. I know the difficulties you have worked under. Years before we went into it, you started. You have had longer years. I want to bring to you my appreciation and the appreciation of our people for that. While we were dilatory in our work you were in the fight. We in the United States in the farming group have also done a remarkable job. We sprang to take part in the conflict by sending our boys and girls. Our farm population has worked hard. Our production per capita has gone up to the greatest of any time in our history. Never in the history of agriculture in the United States have they produced so much per capita. The Grange has gone out for an insistence that we must take notice of this situation, and as I said, when I saw the faces here this afternoon I knew there is a solemn realization that you have confronting you this problem we are talking about for after the war. I know there are many of you who have loved ones somewhere whom you would like to have back from the front. I have four — all I have. If I had more I would want them to go, but we want them back, of course.

As I say, on the trip in Britain I met and talked to the groups of soldiers from different countries. I never saw any group that didn't want to come back but they felt they had a job to do and wanted to do it before they came, and as sure as you are sitting here today, those boys and girls and men and women are looking to us

to prepare and plan for the post-war period. If we don't do our job we will stand indicted by them.

Our farm population went down after the war 16%. Our production went up 23% per capita. There is another thought I think we should think about. I think it is true in your area. I know it is in ours. In past wars, industry has pushed off on to agriculture the workmen they could not hire. They have forced agriculture on lands that could be developed to take up the slack. In our country and I presume in yours that time is no more. We have run away from the issue. Now we have to meet it. You cannot solve it by running away from it. You have heard much discussion through the papers on subsidy payments. I will handle that very briefly. There is quite a wide difference of opinion amongst our people. We believe the farmer should not be put in a position of being towed around by subsidies. You know when I want to change a pig from pen to pen, I get him a little hungry and he will follow me if I have food but otherwise he will not. Agriculture does not want to be towed around because they are hungry or underpaid. We believe we are entitled to our fair share of the nation's income, and when we have that, except in unusual circumstances, there is no place for subsidies in peacetime especially.

I want to speak on co-operatives, and I notice in your president's report his statement, and his position of supporting the fight against double taxing of co-operatives. I want to say to you that is our program. True co-operatives we believe in, and we are going to stand up for them. We are not going to stand back of make-believe vague co-operative organizations. We believe in our country, the co-operatives are paying their fair share of taxes, and we do not propose to stand for any legislation to double tax them.

We are going to be facing things in a mechanized way in agriculture. I told you I worked with the Bonnyville Power Administration. We hold conferences about every three months with the engineers. Transportation or freight costs are a big problem in most farmers' lives and one of the biggest taxes he pays, and we on the Pacific coast have to have a market somewhere besides in our own territory. We are exporters. It is a long way from my territory to you. The market down through the middle states which needs fruits and berries cannot pay the freight rate and put them in there, so I broached the question to this group of what is going to be our transportation problem, and it is a thing which I think is going to come before us faster than we imagine. We have made great developments in plastics and light metals. Is it impossible that the freight car that now weighs 10,000 to 20,000 pounds will soon be built with a weight of seven

or eight or 9,000 lbs. and that dead weight pull be cut right in two in the middle? I think so. Is it possible to put in a wide gauge railroad to cut the distance in half and with less expense? Those engineers think so.

Air Transportation

Then we have the next thing to think about and that is the air. Don't underestimate that. I think we are all thinking about it. The grocers in Oregon tried to get air transportation for cherries to the Chicago market but they could not get the airplanes, though the price was within their ability to pay. I have pointed out to you before that we are a smaller world now. We are getting smaller all the time. It is possible and can be done as far as the mechanical conditions are concerned, to put to-night's milk out and distribute it on the streets of London to-morrow noon from New York. I heard Mr. Kaiser state that when the war is over he intends to be in the production of freight airplanes with trailers that will take a carload. That sounds big. He said, suppose we originate at Kansas City and let it glide into Seattle. Then we could deliver it over Europe.

These may all be dreams. But dreams come true. We are living in a small world today, a small world.

I have noticed several things that I have read here today, and I read some of them coming up on the plane. I have your own little A. F. U. Bulletin, and if you clipped this out and put it in our paper, it would be the same statement, the situation is so near identical.

We believe, and we will work with you and all other farm organizations towards the coming together of representatives of our organizations to discuss war problems as to the distribution of food and agricultural problems. We want our own representatives at that table to discuss our problems. We want agriculture to speak for itself. When that peace table conference comes there is no group of people in the world that has given more of its sons and effort than agriculture, and we should have a place at that peace table to make the peace that is to come.

International Farmers' Union

While I was in Britain this matter became ever weighty on our minds. The Farm Bureau man, Mr. Wingate of Georgie, and the Farmers' Union man and myself talked of it many a night after we had come home to our rooms. We were impressed of the need of action by the solemn realization of the pleadings of the farmers of Britain as we met them at the roadside and as we walked across their fields. I know their fears. I know what the fear of the common people of Britain is. They want a lasting peace. They

have been in the battle ground of war from time immemorial and they believe the farmers could have a large influence if we work together throughout the world, and they asked us if we three men would not take the lead in proposing that an international conference of farm organizations be brought about, and so we met in London the day we were to leave. It was a large press conference. There were things I didn't know, things some people would not want to know. I might tell you I have been cut off broadcasting stations because I attempted to broadcast to the people of my country that Britain had a British Farm Union organization. As I went from one farm union meeting to another the British Farmers' Union had sitting at the table with them the representatives of organized farm labor. I want to repeat again—we of the Grange have no pledges or connection with the labor unions, but in every instance we will sit around the table in a friendly way and discuss our problems, trying to have that common understanding, as our interests are a lot in common. In the West where I live on many and many an occasion the Grange and labor have joined together and submitted appeals to the people for their vote by referendum. If we didn't speak together we would have a sales tax in Oregon. We have paid it five times. We have a graduated income tax. We believe that tax should be based on ability to pay. If we had not done it, there are lots of things we would not have at all. We have the Recall of Officers — we have our power developments. And there are many other things we have joined hands in. Sometimes we don't agree, but we are at least friends. Each goes their respective way, but we have always been willing to talk over our problems. That is in line with labor. I will turn no sincere group down. I will sit around the table and talk our problems over with them.

Here is what we did at that press conference. We made this statement: "Realizing that a prosperous agriculture is the foundation of national and world security, and that its ability to produce and distribute its products will contribute materially to a lasting peace, we jointly wish to issue this statement. Our contacts in Britain have again brought to our attention the fact that agriculture, through the chief national farm organizations of America, Britain, Canada and elsewhere, should be brought into close contact with each other to confer upon and to plan agricultural programs from time to time with the ultimate goal of providing greater security to agriculture and of planning and devising methods and programs that will insure a sufficient, balanced and well arranged program of distribution of farm products to the consumers of the world. Therefore, on our return to America, we shall

urge our farm organization to confer with the national Farmers' Union of England and Wales and with farm organizations elsewhere to the end that an international conference of chief farm organizations be held, such conference to give immediate attention to the agricultural war and post-war policy."

I returned in November and the National Grange passed that resolution. The Farmers' Union has passed it. Mr. Goss asked me to convey to you that we were ready and at the first opportune time we can work out a date we want to carry out the pledge of that statement.

Plenty for All

What does it mean? Did you ever see a bunch of farmers get together that they didn't have something to talk about? I never did, and generally it has been unselfish. The trouble with the farmer has been he has not been selfish enough in some cases. Now what is happening in other groups? When I was in Britain I found the representatives of the American Industrial organizations were there. They had been there. They were on their toes. They were in touch with conditions. They were thinking about and wondering what would be their attitude and what influence they would have in countries overrun by Germany when the war is over. How far they went I don't know. A former president of one of the brotherhoods that came back on the ship with me talked with me. He told me that they were in touch with the underground people of the overrun areas and were working out a plan for discussion when the enemy was driven back. Where was agriculture? Not to be seen. The biggest industry in the world, that gives occupation to 70% of these people? Not there. I have a picture here of a planned world labor conference. You have heard of the labor group that went to Europe just recently. They are arranging and planning a world conference. By whom? Not by diplomats. By labor people, by leaders chosen by the people themselves. Then why not agriculture?

I felt how little I knew when I got to Britain and they asked me some things they had been studying about the Hot Springs Conference held in the United States, and the smartest thing I ever did was tell them I didn't read it and didn't understand it. It saved me a lot of trouble. They had read it and discussed it, and after I had returned I began to realize how small the world is and how we need to understand one another better.

You have given to me today an inspiration to carry back to my people from you people — I would like to say "our people" again. We are so close.

Now I must close. I feel so keenly this

matter. I have no question of what you folks will do. I know you will want a representative when that meeting comes. Let's get into it while we can have the influence. Mr. Goss extends to you that wish. I am going to urge that our organization take the lead. Our dues are not heavy. We have not the funds. I might say to you that out of all our members, the national dues are 16c a year. It is not enough. These are times when most farmers are better able to give a little contribution for the lean years than they have been for a long time. We have just bought our own home in Washington and you are welcome there any time you come. It is agriculture's home in Washington.

I want to hark back just a little. I saw our boys before they went across and I know that everything was done that could be done. They like your boys want to come home. Some will never come. On that battlefield they and our allies, members of all our forces, are dying side by side. On the ground, in the air and on the sea, they are fighting. When they are making that fight for democracy to make it possible for us to do the things we want to do, why should we hesitate while they die? Let us act.

It has been a pleasure to be here. I thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I know that everyone of you agree with me that it has been a privilege indeed to listen to Mr. Thompkins, and we all join in extending to him a vote of thanks.

Tremendous applause was given to Mr. Thompkins at the close of his remarks and it was felt that he had made an eventful contribution.

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ADDRESS.....

Common Sense About C. C. I. L.



HON. S. S. GARSON,
Premier of Manitoba

The implement industry itself has so far failed to reduce the delivered price of implements. It is a reasonable conclusion that in the interest not only of themselves but of the survival of Western Canadian economy, the farmers should take action themselves to bring their cost of production, including the price of implements, into line with the prices which they can get for their own goods, and thereby provide that margin of profit for themselves which is the lifeblood of Western Canadian business. Success in their efforts in this behalf will help themselves and thereby increase the prosperity of Western Canada.

In those efforts they have the enthusiastic support and help of the three prairie governments. They should have the enthusiastic support and help of all citizens because with the exception of a small minority all citizens will benefit from their success.



HON. E. C. MANNING,
Premier of Alberta

ALL FARMERS know that:

Their prosperity and that of Western Canada depends upon maintaining low production costs.

The cost of selling machinery, rather than the cost of manufacturing it, has often increased retail machinery prices unduly.

Machinery prices, which must be paid ultimately in terms of bushels must be kept in their relative place.

Increasing demands for farm machinery render farmers increasingly more dependent upon manufacturing policies upon which they can exert influence most effectively through co-operative methods.

The Government of Alberta gives active support to every endeavour which seeks to give the farmer a minimum production cost, an adequate price for his products and a maximum net profit on his operations.



HON. T. C. DOUGLAS,
Premier of Saskatchewan

For years many of us have cried out against the exploitation of the farmer by the farm implement monopoly. Unfortunately all we could do was to protest. At last we have reached the stage when we can do more than protest — we can act!

A splendid opportunity is being presented by Canadian Co-operative Implements Ltd. to all who are desirous of seeing the farmers freed from the stranglehold of the implement monopoly. The solution is now in our own hands. The time has come for us to act together if full advantage is to be taken of this splendid opportunity which now presents itself.

The Government of Saskatchewan is wholeheartedly behind Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited in its campaign to raise funds. Every dollar you contribute will help to hasten the day when the farmers themselves will control their economic destiny. Help hasten that day by your support of C.C.I.L.

FOR POSTWAR PROSPERITY

BACK THE ATTACK ON HIGH MACHINERY PRICES.

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Immediately after Mr. Thompkins' speech the chairman announced that 467 votes had been cast in the election for President and that Mr. Jas. Jackson of Irma, has been elected for his third term.

Dr. Sinclair of the University of Alberta, was the next speaker on the program.

Dr. Sinclair's Address

CHAIRMAN: Dean Sinclair will now speak to you.

DEAN SINCLAIR: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. I want to say that I regard it as a privilege indeed to meet with you this afternoon and have this opportunity of speaking to you for a few minutes. It was a treat to hear the address delivered by Mr. Thompkins. I want to congratulate Mr. Jackson on his re-election as president of your organization.

Mr. Nichols got in touch with me some time ago and asked me if I would say something to this gathering and I said I would gladly do so and he suggested that the topic might have some reference to problems related to post-war reconstruction. I mentioned to him then that I thought your own organization had given a good deal of consideration to this, particularly in relation to the situation in Alberta and he said that indeed was so but he thought I might have an opinion or two regarding the post-war situation perhaps in the broader field, and it will be only along that line I shall attempt to say anything in the time allotted to me.

I know that in this province of Alberta we are deeply concerned in connection with all matters relating to post-war agriculture or post-war developments that will effect agriculture for the main reason perhaps that 60 to 70 percent of the spending power in the province comes from farm products. Furthermore I think a thing that is very significant from the point of view we are thinking of and what is happening in other parts of a world that is getting smaller and smaller, is the fact that we can only consume a very small percentage of our agricultural products. I don't know if you have been doing any figuring on that but I think from the point of view of wheat perhaps we consume about six to seven percent, pigs not more than 10%. It takes about 350,000 pigs to feed Alberta and we marketed in 1944 around 2,900,000. So you can see how that works out. In cattle about 30%, and so it goes on down the line. We are definitely an exporting country, and we must be concerned therefore with what is taking place elsewhere, in other countries here and there and all over; we are thinking about global agriculture I think now.

Looking Ahead

In my own thinking it seems to me we are probably concerned more than we ever were about the future of agriculture and not the two or three post-war years, but the long years that lie ahead. When I was an infant in this province of Alberta, and I was born on a farm here, in our part of the country as I think back to those people who came from the Old Country and from down East and from across the imaginary line, there was a feeling, and it was the common sort of philosophy, that they came here to stay a while, perhaps get on those fresh lands and maybe make a cleanup and move on then to some other country or part of the world. That was common thinking. At this time we are into the third generation, at least the second, of people born right here in Alberta. My people came from the old country and took up a homestead in this province. I am the second generation and my son is the third of what we call Alberta people. So we really have a little stake in what is taking place in connection with developments that will relate themselves to the agriculture of this province, and it is well that your organization and all organizations have been considering post-war reconstruction of agriculture right here in the province, and many of these things are covered in connection with your resolutions.

When I suggested a moment ago that we are concerned with world-wide agriculture there are a few things that come to my mind. I was interested in Mr. Thompkins' reference to British agriculture. We are concerned with agriculture in Europe and how those people are going to live, and one of the things we are most concerned about is whether or not there is going to be a policy over there of what was referred to during the war of self-sufficiency or in the alternative freedom from want of food. The program and general psychology in connection with certain European countries in the pre-war stage was the building up of the agricultural resources of those countries perhaps at a certain artificial level in the production of foods for which some of the countries were not adapted. A certain amount of wheat was grown over there and our No. 1 Northern in this country was not required. That has been true in connection with a large number of agricultural products. There was an artificial level of production in some areas and people were deprived of the quality of food they should have.

British Production

Many statements in Britain in the last year or two would suggest that Europe in general repudiates the idea of self-sufficiency and that certain foods produced in one part of the world where

(Continued on page 33)

Women Delegates at the Third Annual Convention of the Alberta Farmers' Union



Front row, left to right, are pictured: Mrs. R. Stanley, Wetaskiwin; Mrs. A. Bague, Forestburg; Mrs. O. Lantz, Millet; Mrs. C. E. Jones, Millet; Mrs. J. Geddes, Wetaskiwin, third vice-president on the union executive; Mrs. M. Franks, Goodwin; Miss Sylvia Yaffe, Edmonton; Mrs. H. Schielke, Wetaskiwin, and Mrs. V. Starr, Ryley. Second row, from left to right: Mrs. E. O. Grimsrud, Wembley; Mrs. O. E. Johnson, Lindale; Mrs. Mary B. Pharis, Magrath; Mrs. S. Stewart, Westrose; Mrs. C. Ackroyd, Magrath; Mrs. J. Clare, Radway. Third row, left to right: Mrs. E. Gorsky, Bluffton; Mrs. S. Sabey, Magrath; Mrs. A. E. Cleland, Cowley; Mrs. R. S. Thompson, Spring Coulee, and Mrs. W. Rose, Athabasca. Fourth row: Mrs. L. Chaky, Warburg; Mrs.

Charles Pharis, Tod Creek; Mrs. A. Van Nest, Kirriemuir; Miss Edith Hausan, Viking; Mrs. B. Horten, Royce, and Mrs. R. D. Bradshaw, Caldwell. Fifth row: Mrs. L. Korschak, Wembley; Mrs. J. A. Cameron, Millet; Mrs. Wm. Zolmer, Falun; Mrs. J. P. Minnette, Strome; Mrs. P. Hippe, Blackfoot; Mrs. F. Smith, Royce; Mrs. W. Payne, Mountain View. Sixth row: Mrs. W. G. Logan, Holden; Mrs. P. O'Donnell, Ankerton; Mrs. F. B. Webber, Cowley; Mrs. C. O. McGowan, Hairy Hill, and Mrs. R. M. Beazer, Beazer. Seventh row: Mrs. E. M. Hart, Landis, Sask.; Mrs. P. Parks, Prestville; Mrs. P. Whelan, Prestville; Mrs. B. Tiemon, Buffalo Lake; Mrs. Ross Shippy, Wetaskiwin; Mrs. H. Zacht, Hay Lakes, and Mrs. D. Schickerowsky, Bashaw.

Dr. Sinclair's Address

(Continued from page 31)

they can be produced to the best advantage should be distributed to other parts of the world where that better kind of food can be used. If there is a program of broader international distribution of food and less of that philosophy of restriction and self-sufficiency, that is going to mean something to the 100,000 farmers in this province.

We have been feeding the British people to a considerable extent during the last four or five years, but you know that during the war Britain instead of producing 40% of her own food, is now producing 70% of it. Here is a statement made by a British farmer who visited Eastern Canada three months ago. "Previous to 1939 Britain was producing about 40% of her requirements but this has been stepped up to 70%. It is believed that more has been learned of value to British agriculture in five years of war than during 30 years of peace."

Within the country itself, Great Britain has been able to bring up the level of production to a point of 70% from 40%. Of course if that production is maintained during the post-war years it is going to mean that less bushels of grain and less hogs and whatever else we may be concerned with would be required to feed those people.

On the other hand, this must be kept in mind. There has been an increase in the efficiency of production on the other side of the picture. We cannot expect that country to go back to its old traditional agriculture. There will be cattle men, sheep men, some pig men and some interested in dairy products. It is not likely to be producing large quantities of wheat or other cereals. It will produce at home as many of the productive foods as possible and bring in from outside large quantities of other materials required.

War Losses

We are concerned with the agriculture of Denmark. 2,099,000 hogs were produced in this province. What about Denmark? We want to study what is happening there and in other countries that made up that long list of bacon producers and exporters before the war. We must concern ourselves with organizations set up on an international basis that are concerned with the distribution of food products of the land.

You may have read not very long ago, about two months ago, an article in the Country Gentleman by Mr. Hendrickson, Associate Director of U.N.N.R.A., which was set up following a trip on his own part to many of the countries that

have now been liberated and following a survey of the needs of those people, on what he found and relating that to the possible requirements of those liberated countries for food supplies.

Two or three things struck him. One was the conclusion that there had not been as much total destruction of European agriculture as anticipated three or four years ago. A war of movement rushing through a country had not destroyed land and farm buildings. They destroyed towns and cities but in general the farm lands had not been destroyed to the extent that had been expected and he left the suggestion there that we might not expect to find as big an opening there as we had anticipated but nevertheless the figures given in terms of wheat required, meats required, etc. suggested there was a great big job to do; and it comes to one's mind that apart from the wonderful contribution the farmers here have made during the war years there will be a substantial job to do during that short term of the post-war reconstruction period.

Oriental Demand

I want to go one step further in connection with this matter of international consideration with respect to agriculture. Mr. Thompkins referred to the Hot Springs conference and I am not sure just what his views on the accomplishments of that conference are, but it seemed to me that in connection with the Hot Springs conference on food and agriculture at least this was done. It was the first United Nations' conference of any kind and was represented by 44 delegates from 44 nations of all races. Mr. Jackson referred to the yellow and black races and those in between, but there were delegates from 44 nations there. What for? To discuss food and agriculture. Is that not something in itself? That the first united nations' conference centred attention on the job of the farmer producing food and the business of getting that food some way around to the people of the world who need it. I am really a little enthusiastic about that thing started there because three months after that I was down in Washington for five weeks — I was asked to go down by the government of Canada to sit in on some of the discussions going on at the later stages. I think something was accomplished on that score.

We have here 400 million people in China; 500 million in India. We have lesser populations in other countries, but within these countries of the larger populations millions and millions of people are starving. The statement was made at the conference that at least one third of the people of the world, and likely a larger proportion than that, have never had enough food for health and a decent life. When you relate that to what appear to be surpluses and think of what

could be done if that food could be shipped around (and when you see that film "World of Plenty", one of the most dramatic films I have seen, and see those moving lines from Canada across to Britain and branching over to India and other countries, it is really thrilling) and if we could get transportation and a medium of exchange and increased industrial activity, think of what that would mean during the post-war period.

I think there was enough of a motive behind the Hot Springs conference so that we made a very substantial advance. Also it is as I said, significant that the first conference of that nature was concerned with agriculture and food and fundamentally of course the business of farming is that of producing food and clothing.

References have been made to the possibility in the dim future of chemists manufacturing some of these things. I think it is a long time away and there is nothing in sight yet that takes the place of cereals and vegetables and fruits and bacon and eggs. We will not have anything like that for a long long time.

I could go on in connection with some of the brighter aspects of this whole thing. There are developments farmers must take into consideration. However, you have a great deal of work to do here yet, so I am going to thank you again for this opportunity of meeting with you and wish your organization the very best and to extend the greetings of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Alberta to this meeting of farmers. We are working away at the University, which is your university, and are doing the best we can do in connection with the agricultural department, carrying on research to make certain results available to you and the land in this province, and I feel that agricultural research is going to make a substantial contribution to the post-war period. I am sure you all appreciate the significance of research work in connection with agriculture. This industry cannot afford to lag behind from this point of view.

I extend an invitation to you to come in groups to look us over and see the work we are doing in general and to visit around with us.

Thanks again, and the best of luck.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure you have enjoyed this talk given by Dean Sinclair. We should keep in mind what he has said.

A few questions were asked at the close of the discussion and the subject of "Bangs" disease was introduced and Dr. Sinclair suggested that Dr. Jones be asked to discuss this matter with the convention. Secretary contacted Dr. Jones and arrangements were made and Dr. Jones appeared before the Convention the next day. (His talk is reported in another place).

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

There were 19 names nominated for the four vacancies for vice-presidency. Of these 8 withdrew which left 11 in the running. It was agreed that three minutes be given to each candidate to make a short talk and it was moved by H. R. Boutillier and seconded by G. Collins, that each candidate state briefly their stand on backing up co-operative enterprise.

It was moved that the voting for vice-presidents be taken at 10 a. m. Thursday morning.

The meeting adjourned for the Banquet which was scheduled to begin in the basement hall at 6:30.

CONVENTION BANQUET

After an enjoyable meal fraternal delegates were heard from. The loud speaker had been installed and there was no difficulty in hearing all that was said.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES:

Mrs. Hart, Women's Section U. F. C.

Mr. Gooding, Vice-president U. F. C.

3 Mr. Geo. Church, Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

4 Mr. Ben Plumer, Alberta Wheadt Pool.

5 Mr. T. Appleby, President U. F. C.

Good wishes from United Mine Workers of America from Peter Collins, Secretary.

6 Mr. J. W. Barnett, Teachers' Association, who pointed out the necessity for paying teachers an adequate wage if those having the desired ability were to be retained in the teaching profession.

Enjoyable entertainment was furnished by the Journal to which was added some real talent from within the Union. Mr. Kenneth Long, of Spring Coulee, gave two especially pleasing numbers and his singing of "On the Road to Mandalay" was splendid. Ernie Knott, of Kevisville, provided plenty of merriment with his humorous turns and altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.

We regret to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thurston of Bow Island have received word that their son is missing on overseas service.

The sympathy of the Union is extended to these two members in their hour of trial and to all others who receive similar news.

Mrs. Thurston is the M.L.A. for Cypress.

Evening Session, January 24th

MR. JACKSON: Now ladies and gentlemen. We have with us to-night some fraternal delegates and it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Mrs. Hart, who represents the Women's Section of the U. F. C. (Saskatchewan section).

MRS. HART: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates. It gives me great pleasure to be here with you. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to meet with you and I do want you to know that it is a pleasure and I hope that many times in the future we will be able to get together because by getting together we get close together and that is what we must have — unity, and we can all get close together and unify our different movements by getting to understand the aims and objectives of the different associations.

I was very pleased this afternoon to hear Mr. Thompkins appeal to the women — I wish there were more men in Canada like him because I have never heard anyone express this just quite as he did when talking of the women and how he felt in Great Britain and how he missed them and I wish there had been more men in Canada who felt that way. Many times I go to meetings and look around the crowds and wonder just what is wrong right here, and I wonder how many of you men came from your homes to this meeting without asking your wives to come with you. I will tell you a little story. My husband and I were in Saskatoon and we met a gentleman we had not seen for some time. I said, where is your wife? I thought he looked rather strange and wondered what I had said that I should not have. He said, she is at home. He came back later and said, you know I am glad you said that to me. You asked me where my wife was. Do you know it must be nine or ten years since I have asked my wife to come with me and I didn't realize it? I hope, gentlemen, there are not many like that. He told me, "the next time you see me, you will see my wife with me." It was probably her own fault too. Too often he said he had asked her and she was too busy to go. After a while he got thinking he was asking too much of her and just didn't ask her to go.

We need the women in the organization. Many times we ask the question, where is woman's place? Woman's place is first in the home. And that is the place she loves most deeply. The woman today has reached out into what heretofore had been an impossible world and she has shown herself just as efficient and keen as the men. Today more than ever women's influence must be felt. She must enter everywhere. She is needed. Our boys and girls across there are

expecting us, everyone of us, to play our part here on the home front as efficiently, as courageously as they are playing theirs. Many a boy and girl is thinking and planning. I will tell you of a letter I had from a boy not long ago who had volunteered at the beginning of the war and I had not heard from him until about a year and a half ago and got a letter which went something like this: "Today I received a parcel of papers from home and in perusing the pages I found your name among farm organization workers and was very happy to think that a neighbor and close friend was thinking and trying to do something for us over here because here we are fighting for democracy and we expect you back home to do something about it." To me that is a challenge for you as well as for me, I will not be satisfied and will not give up the fight until I see every farmer, man and wife — and don't forget the young people because they are very necessary and our youth of today are the citizens of tomorrow and we must not forget them — in the battle. We must do everything possible.

I don't know that I should take very much time when I look at the line at the head table. I realize what fraternal delegates' greetings must mean and before I say good-night to you, I want to extend an invitation to you to send a woman or women to our U. F. C. convention that we hold in the University in the month of June. Those dates will be announced later. I would like very much to see some of your women from Edmonton there. And also of course some of your men and women at our convention in the fall. We used to carry on our convention together, the men and women, but we have found that there were too many women not able to get away from home at the same time and have now changed our convention so that we hold one in the summer, and we think we are having very good success that way. We had the young peoples' organization along with us until the war broke out. Since that time our young peoples' group has gone down but we hope to regain them. If you will come we will try to make you as welcome as you have made our representatives at your convention. We feel just that we are one of you and we want you to feel that way when you come to Saskatchewan, and in closing I wish you every success and before you meet again next year I hope our boys and girls are back with us, ready to take their place in helping to build a new world order so that we will have peace, prosperity and an opportunity for all.

Good night.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Hart.

CHAIRMAN: It gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce to you a visitor from Saskatchewan, Mr. Gooding, who is vice-president of the U. F. C. (Saskatchewan Section).

MR. GOODING: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to be here representing the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section). The rest of the speakers who went before me made a joke of being nervous but I confess this is the first time I have ever attempted to stand in front of half this many people so you know what I feel like. Your delegates have been at our last two conventions and through their coming to us and our delegates coming here, we discovered that we were one in purpose so we got together and organized the joint action program which will come up before you to-morrow, and we are here, three of us, for that reason, to help draft that joint action program. We found that we were in accord practically all the way. It is surprising. I think the fellows from Alberta thought we were one species of Red and might not get along and we thought maybe there was something funny about Alberta. But we found we were working for identically the same thing.

We have given study to one thing in Saskatchewan that I have not noticed in your agenda or heard brought before your convention and it is not included in our joint action program. I don't know why we forgot to suggest it to you but we did, and that is our study of the building of co-operative farms. We are making an intensive study of the setting up of co-operative farms. We have come to the conclusion in Saskatchewan, and I think the problem is more acute there than here, that something has to be done if we are going to keep our people on the farms; that is, keep them on the farms as landowners, because, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I think this applies in Alberta too, the small farmer is getting crowded off and the big units are taking his place. I am farming what was farmed by four other farmers and I am doing it efficiently. We are studying and working to figure out some method whereby we can keep our farmers on the farms owning the farms. We feel that the people are going to stay and work along anyway, so if they are going to stay there why not figure out some method of co-operation whereby we can own and operate our farms jointly rather than getting pushed off and then having the bigger units hire their sons to run the farm.

We in the U. F. C. are giving a lot of consideration to that angle. I just brought it to your attention because I noticed that it was not on your agenda and I didn't hear it discussed in your convention. I think you should give thought to it.

There is another angle too — we are working

and fighting for and asking for parity prices. That is the aim of our organization and yours. I wonder if we are justified in asking that we get parity of income with men being employed in mass production under which they have to submerge a certain amount of individuality to obtain this, I wonder if we should not be prepared by the time we are ready to ask for parity prices, if necessary, to make our own production efficient to give up whatever amount of individuality is necessary to attain that object.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to be here to-night and to be here representing the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section). I attended a Federation of Agriculture meeting in Regina last week and of the resolutions presented to that convention I think I could safely say four fifths came either from this body or from ours. So many of them came from the U. F. C. (Saskatchewan Section) that when our delegates got up to speak for them one of the members of a co-operative delegation took a pencil and figured out the time and said if the rest of our delegates spoke as long as the U. F. C. delegates are doing it would take 87 hours to conclude the convention. I think it would have been a good idea if the other member bodies had had as many resolutions that showed as much thought as the U. F. C. and A. F. U. ones did. Some of them possibly were a little irrelevant. Most of them contained lots of thought and they came from these bodies.

Again Mr. Chairman I wish to say I am glad to be here at this convention. I wish that we had as many delegates at our convention. We have not. We have a little different system of bringing our delegates in which cuts it down, but we have not the members you have. I wish we had the fight and get up and go that there is in your convention, and I compliment you and certainly hope to see your representatives at our convention this coming fall.

I thank you.

Other fraternal delegates heard were:- 3, 4 and 5, whose talks will be printed later.

The home of Mrs. Art Sanderson of Meadowview which was submerged in the flood has been moved to high land by the men of Meadowview Local No. 418 under the direction of Mr. B. A. Golby. The house was heavy and all seven tractors wanted to drag uphill. Mr. Golby had a very difficult task and we feel that his splendid work should be given publicity. Mr. Golby had a lot of flood damage himself, but was willing to give freely of his time and ability to help his neighbour. That's the kind of men we have in Local 418. — Sec. W. E. Wilson.

Thursday Morning Session

After the banquet the delegates realized that the resolutions would have to be tackled in real earnest and with Mr. G. J. Nestman in the chair they started in as soon as the convention opened.

The Order of Business recommended that a period of time be set aside to discuss organization work. Moved by Mr. Aaserude and Mrs. Chalky. Carried.

The resolution on page 24 which asked for the abolition of the District Association, failed to find a mover, and the next one on the same page proposed an increase in the membership fee to \$2.00 as follows: \$1.00 Head Office; 50c Bulletin; 25c local; 25c District, was lost.

The next resolution on the organization work brought up a constitutional amendment which proposed to delete sections 41, 42 and 43 from the Constitution and substitute three others. This has already been dealt with in the earlier part of this report under constitutional amendments.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

At this time it was moved that the Report of the Resolutions Committee be approved and that a committee be again elected by the Convention for next year.

Perry and Childress.

An amendment was added to this "that the Committee should be given sweeping powers to reword the resolutions without changing the principle involved. Amendment, Olson and Baker. Carried. Resolution as amended, carried.

Nominations for this Committee were taken and the following nominated: Russell, Anderson, Wilson, Stimpfle, Olson, Burbidge, Aaserude and Cook. Mr. Cook withdrew and it was moved by L. Olson, seconded by Baker, that nominations close. Carried.

Upon a count being taken the first five were Russell, Stimpfle, Olson, Wilson and Anderson.

The first three named were elected as the committee. It was then moved that two alternate members be put on the Committee in case sickness should prevent any one or more attending. Aaserude and McLeod.

This was amended that six be on the committee and four be a quorum. The amendment was lost and the motion carried. Olson then moved, seconded by Sestrap, that the two next highest on the list be the alternates and this carried so that Wilson and Anderson are the alternate members of the resolutions committee.

A further constitutional amendment was now offered of which notice had been given the previous day to the effect that "The local shall also issue the membership card to each member of the

local and shall send a list of all members to central office." Isaac and Pahl. Lost.

A resolution was moved from the floor "That excess funds in the Pool Rate fund be held for use in future years and added to existing fund.

McBeath and Marshall. Carried.

A word of explanation is due here. At the time this resolution was passed, a statement had just been given to the convention that there would be a surplus of approximately \$400 on the Pool Rate of \$10. This was a mistake on the part of the Pool Rate Committee, who had included the registration fees collected amounting to \$509.25 with the Pool Rate fund. Actually there was a deficit of \$80 on the Pool Rate this year, so the amount in the fund has been decreased by this amount, leaving a balance of approximately \$378 in the fund to be carried over to next year. We hope the delegates will take note of this explanation.

COLLECTING DUES

The resolution under this heading on page 29 was substituted by another as follows: Whereas we, the members of the A. F. U., are in favour of compulsory membership for farm organization whereby membership fees may be collected by municipalities (after a plebiscite of $\frac{2}{3}$ of all bona fide farmers that vote in any municipality are in favour of such a plan). Therefore we request that the Government of Alberta at the forthcoming session introduce legislation to amend the Municipality Act to grant Municipalities power to make such a plan possible.

Olson and Childress.

This was amended by striking out the end of the first clause, from "after" to "plan" and then add to the end of the last paragraph the following: "and should any farmer within the Province wish to have his or her membership fee sent to any other farmer organization, he can have this done by informing the Secretary of the Municipality in writing." Amendment Milsap and Knott. Carried. Resolution as amended, carried.

A recommendation came from the Order of Business Committee that we delay adjournment until 12:30 and so the convention carried on.

Resolution 21, page 27 on Youth Movement was carried. Childress and Pelche.

At this stage the number of announcements of meetings being continually made from the platform seemed rather prolific so delegates Isaac and Rigges moved and seconded that these announcements be withheld while more important business was disposed of. Carried.

No. 22 page 25 — Re Projection Machines:

This brought out considerable discussion. One thought it was expensive and rather impracticable. Another favoured it in new districts for organization work. Mr. Sibley from Saskatchewan, spoke in favour and said the Wheat Pool

in Saskatchewan found it was a great attraction and the resolution carried. Moved by Skish and Lovelock.

Convention then adjourned at 12:30 to be reconvened at 2:00 p. m. with the incentive of dealing with the Action Program and the election of the Vice-presidents.

Thursday Afternoon, January 25th

Immediately on re assembling the chairman made the announcement that a book salesman who was blind, would like to say a few words. Mr. McCanham spoke and said if he could get \$1000 worth of subscriptions he can get an "eye-seeing dog", and he asked the co-operation of the delegates.

Resolution No. 23 on page 2 of the supplement which asked for Producers' Annuities, was dealt with and lost.

ACTION PROGRAM

The action program was introduced by Mr. G. Bevington, chairman of the committee, and moved by him, seconded by C. Fuhr, that the program be adopted. An amendment that it be taken clause by clause by Dennington and Rigges, was lost.

It was moved by Kerns, seconded by Wilson, that all reference to the pledge on page 2 be struck out. This carried.

A further amendment to make one sentence read "Debt legislation that merely postpones payment is no solution" was carried. Moved by Kerns and Cherry. Then the Action Program was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

At this time the announcement was made of the result of the election and the following four were elected:

1. Mr. Hawrelak
2. Mr. Young
3. Mr. McGowan
4. Mr. Pharis

As a result of this election the delegates were faced with the problem of having no woman on the Executive Committee which obviously was not what they had intended and they now sought for ways to remedy the oversight.

First it was moved that the lady who had polled the highest vote should be 5th vice-president; but it was pointed out this was in conflict with the constitution. Childress and Pelechy then moved to bring a notice of motion for a constitutional amendment to be brought in the next day to elect a woman as 5th vice-president and

get counsels advice if this can be done. This was lost.

The suggestion was then made by A. Milsap that a constitutional change be made to provide for a women on the Executive Committee. (This was dealt with later and the board instructed to bring in a constitutional amendment at next Annual Convention to provide for one woman in the committee of four).

ACTION PROGRAM

Bevington moved that a joint committee be carried on with any and all organizations who are in sympathy with its objectives, seconded by Pekse. Carried.

BANGS DISEASE No. 9 Page 36

In response to the invitation made the day before Dr. Jones of the Animal Pathologist branch, gave the delegates a short talk on matters connected with Bangs Disease.

He pointed out that the sale of vaccines come under federal control by the Veterinary Director General of the Department of Agriculture and he mentioned to the delegates that the following resolution on page 36, asking for more Veterinarians was appropriate, and suggested the convention approve the extending of veterinary service by way of a national subsidy and thus eliminate travelling expenses charge, so that veterinary services can be reasonable.

The resolution dealing with Veterinaries and T. B. test was then amended and carried on motion. Pelche and Burgess.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Jones. Moved by Mr. Kern and seconded by Mr. Dennington and carried.

The next resolution moved was entitled NON-political on page one of the supplementary sheet. Moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. H. R. Boutillier.

Mr. Nichols pointed out that he sought only to unite the farmers and as the subject matter of the complaint, monetary reform, was endorsed by the leaders of at least three parties and could not be properly termed of a partizan political nature, therefore his action could not be interpreted as endorsing any particular Political Party.

It was then moved to substitute the reso-

lution "Neutrality in Politics" page 26. Moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Pelche.

Carried.

The substitute motion was moved by Puhl and Olson. Carried.

A statement was made at this time by Chairman Nestman that the truck posters advertising the Alberta Farmers' Union were not an infringement of the Police regulations.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT

This resolution dealt with the veterans of the first World War and was moved by Mr. Sibley who is secretary of the Soldier Settlers Association, R. R. 1 North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and is also a member of the Alberta Farmers' Union. This was carried unanimously and it was then moved that these principles be embodied in our Action Program. Moved by Mr. Bevington and seconded by Mr. McGowan. Carried.

A resolution asking for a different basis of parliamentary representation, entitled "Farm Bloc" moved by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Mr. Aaserude, was lost and then the matter of the handling of resolutions on page 26 was passed with the amendment added that the replies received be printed in the Bulletin.

Further amendments that a lobby committee be appointed to press for the passage of these resolutions were all lost.

It was moved to adjourn till 8:00 p. m. and it was recommended that board resolutions be taken up at that time.

Thursday Evening, January 25th

Board resolution on page 2 of supplement, dealing with deterioration in quality of goods was carried. Campbell and Perry.

Cost Accounting page 7 of supplement. Sestrap and Olson. Carried.

Crop Insurance, page 1 of supplement. This provided plenty of discussion and after two amendments had been made it was moved that a substitute motion be accepted in place of it.

Stimpfle and Olson. Carried.

The substitute was "Prairie Farmers Assistance Act" on page 56. Amendments were made to this to add "the deduction not to be greater than 2% and any amount required in excess of this to be taken out of the National treasury." The amendment was lost and the original motion on page 56 as moved by Sestrap and Webber, carried.

At this time it was agreed that Mr. Appleby, President of the U. F. C. (Sask. Section) discuss the Hudson Bay - Churchill route for a few minutes. In reply to a question, where do Alberta locals send for information and to give their

backing to the Hudson Bay route, reply: F. Eliason, Secretary or G. Bickerton, publicity director, U. F. C. (Sask. Section), Imperial Bank Buildings, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

ACTION FUND

Page 29. Moved, Wilson and Kern.

Amended "that no action fund be started without 51% consent of the members of our organization." This was lost overwhelmingly.

Moved that another paragraph be added, "that members donate the sum of 25c per member" was moved by Perry and Williams.

This was amended to "50c per member annually" by Olson and Homless, but was lost.

The following was then added "and further that we suggest to assess ourselves the sum of 25c per member for 1945 in order to commence to build up a fund that will be sufficient to carry any case in which the fundamental rights of farmers are involved right through to the ultimate court of decision without being hampered through lack of funds. Carried.

Resolution relating to returned men on page 8 of the Supplement, was tabled and a substitute moved by Mr. McGowan and Wilson was carried.

AMALGAMATION WITH THE U. F. A.

Page 26. This was carried after an amendment suggesting immediate amalgamation had been lost.

The Convention then adjourned till 9:30 Friday morning.

A ONE-WINGED BIRD?

Birds that soar through the sky

Have need of BOTH their wings to fly.

Should either one be broke or spent

Swift and tragic their descent; —

Right or Left — — — it matters not — — —

A futile fluttering is their lot.

Like birds — — — so MEN, in Union cleft*,

Have need of BOTH the Right and Left,

Else aimless wander 'round and 'round

To sink, frustrated, on the ground

As birds, so maimed, in circles fly

To fall exhausted from the sky.

* * * *

Nor yet in Fable have we heard

Of flight SUSTAINED by a ONE-WINGED bird.

M. W. C.

*Cleft — Obsolete word meaning "adhering."

Alberta Farmers' Union Officers and Board of Directors for the Year 1945



The Board of Directors of the Alberta Farmers' Union, consisting of Executive Officers elected at the Union's annual convention, and a director from each Union District in the province, are shown in the photograph above, taken at the A.F.U. Annual Convention held in Edmonton. In the back row—standing (from the left) are: Geo. Bevington, Winterburn, director for District 5; N. Baron, Bonnyville, director for District 4; Geo. Kropinski, Consort, director for District 11; L. Hawkes, Dimsdale, director for District 1; G. J. Nestman, Vermilion, director for District 7; J. Melenka, Warwick, director for District 6; R. N.

Russell, Athabasca, director for District 3; W. J. Landry, Pouce Coupe, director for Peace River Block of B. C.; H. E. Nichols, Edmonton, Secretary-Treasurer. Center row—sitting (from the left): A. A. Anderson, Drumheller, director for District 10; C. O. McGowan, Hairy Hill, 3rd vice-president; Wm. Hawreliak, Jr., Wasel, 1st vice-president; Jas. Jackson, Irma, president; H. Young, Millet, 2nd vice-president; L. E. Pharis, Magrath, 4th vice-president. Front row—sitting (from the left): A. Friend, Rosalind, director for District 8; A. D. Olson, Homeglen, director for District 9; K. Long, Spring Coulee, director for District 12; T. Ouellet, McLennan, director for District 2.

Friday Morning, January 26th, 9:30

The constitutional amendment re "Directors" on page 7 of the Supplement, was carried with only three voting against.

Moved by Rigges and Williams.

POULTRY

Mr. Kapler, a director of the Alberta Poultry Producers Co-op, gave a short talk on poultry marketing. He answered a number of questions and during the discussion it was revealed that the present wholesale margin on eggs is 4c and this is the lowest on record. The Co-op has no control over the spread between the producers price of 28½c and the retail of 44c.

WOMAN ON EXECUTIVE

The board was instructed to make provision for this at the next Annual Convention on motion of Dennington and Collins which carried almost unanimously.

A motion to limit the time allowed each speaker on a resolution was tabled.

RE AFFILIATION WITH TRADE UNIONS

Page 27. This was amended by striking out a portion from the end on motion by Sestrap and Cherry and was carried.

After a further amendment by Kelly that "no affiliation be made without consent of 51% of membership decided by Plebiscite" had been lost.

FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

Page 25. Moved Lewis and McLeod. Amended by Sestrap and Wilson by striking out all words after "Resolved that" to "will" in first paragraph and all the words after "suggested" at end of line 6. Amendment carried. A further amendment added the following after the word "suggested." a farmer membership organization is defined as an organization of bona-fide farmers who pay the fees of the organization. Carried as amended. Olson and Pelche.

Pharis in Chair

On point of privilege H. R. Boutillier requested permission to bring up the matter of Hudson Bay Railway as mentioned by Mr. Appleby. The Convention granted this.

Resolution reads:

WHEREAS after many years of organized effort, the Hudson Bay Railway was constructed and grain storage and other facilities were established at Port Churchill for the expected purpose of providing much shorter rail transportation and a more economical route for the export of west-

ern products and the import of western requirements, and

WHEREAS the practicability of the route was proved to the general satisfaction of all interested groups, including Provincial and National governments, before construction of the railroad and port facilities were commenced, and

WHEREAS since the completion of the entire project, little or no effort has been made by appropriate departments of the Dominion Government to utilize the railway or the port as a means of export and import, and prairie governments have also showed a lack of desire to use the routes as a service utility to our western economy, and

WHEREAS no encouragement has been given or adequate arrangements made to induce farmers to consign grain for export through the route by accounting to them the financial benefit accruing if any, from such consigned grain, and

WHEREAS the past and present maintenance cost of a virtually unused costly transportation and harbor enterprise with vast commerce and trade possibilities, must place our Dominion and Provincial administrators in a ridiculous and embarrassing position, viewed by the minds of people elsewhere,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we recommend that the Alberta Government, in co-operation with the Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments, if possible, forthwith secure from the Dominion Government the powers to maintain, operate, and administer under a strong representative western committee the Hudson Bay Railway and port and harbor facilities at Churchill as utilities through which to export western products to Eastern Canada, the United States, Latin Americas and European countries, and to import goods from these points and that western trade representatives be established at appropriate post centres to facilitate and promote trade arrangements. Moved by Bevington, seconded by Boutillier. Carried.

Pasture Leases.

Page 38 Rogers and Cherry. Carried.

Page 57 Farm Income Tax. Burbidge and Olson. Carried.

Page 56. Income Tax on Past Crops. Olson and Hawley moved to be tabled. Weber and Sestrap. Tabled.

At this time it was moved by J. L. Macintosh and seconded by Impey that a Vote of Appreciation be given to all officers, committees, secretary and office staff who had contributed to carrying on of the Convention. This replied to by the Secretary, on behalf of the office staff.

MACHINERY

Page 54 Asking for standardized farm machinery. Isaac and Cherry. Carried.

Page 54 Oil Controller. Moved Heudepol and Rigges. Carried.

Page 53 Ammunition, requesting shells of good quality be available. Dennington, Tym. Carried.

Page 52 Children's clothing. Howg and McLeod. Carried.

Page 52 Wool Prices asking for 50c per lb. Lost Kelley and Mrs. Pharis.

Page 50 Lowering the Voting Age to age of military call up. Amended to "Dominion Government." Campbell and Marshall. Carried.

Page 51 Payment for by-products. Tabled. Adjourn till 2 p.m.

Friday Afternoon

Page 55 Alaska Highway Moved Perry and Marshall. Was passed after the following had been added by the Resolution Committee "and further that we protest the rumor that daily passenger service on the N.A.R. is to be discontinued as this service is a decided connecting link between Edmonton and the Alaska Highway."

Page 49 Chemurgy in West. Childress and Cherry. Carried.

Page 48 Old Age Pension at 60 Lewis and Isaac. Carried.

Page 47 Grain subsidy. Moved by Kern and Gold.

After some discussion it was moved that this be referred back to the re-drafting committee with the assistance of the mover and others for re-draft Lewis and Empey. Carried.

Re-draft

Resolved that all feeders be made to pay the full prices of grain including the equalization price and that all farm produce prices be raised by bonus to compensate for the increased cost of feed. Kern and Empey. Carried.

Page 45 School Act. Hemming and Skish. Carried.

Page 45 Fire Prevention. McLeod and Isaac. Carried.

Page 34 Re Natural Resources. Moved Bausman and Khwack sent back for re-drafting. Re-draft substituting "title holder" for Crown in both cases. Stimpfle and Bausman. Carried.

The substitute motion dealing with Returned Men came in at this point and carried unanimously. (This was dealt with previously.)

Page 34 Fuel Tax. Marshall and Isaac. Carried.

RE CONVENTION AGENDA FOR 1946

(56A) Instruct Board to arrange for Frater-

nal delegates to give their addresses in the evening so as to have morning and afternoon free for A. F. U. delegates. Campbell, Godfrey. Carried.

Page 40 Daylight Saving Time. Moved Williams. Carried.

Page 5 Supplement. Antifreeze Garrett and Marshall. Carried.

Page 38 Irrigation. Childress and Evans. Carried Unanimously.

Page 51 Power Washer. Mrs. Whalen and Marshall. Carried.

Page 44 Land Clearing Machinery and Dugouts. As amended. Mrs. Milton and Lewis. Carried.

Page 6 Supplement Federal Gas Tax. Isaac and Garrett. Carried.

Page 33 Co-operation in Schools. Huseby and Offset. Carried.

Page 39 Blood Plasma. Wilson, Rigges. Carried.

Page 41 Timber Wolves. Pekse and Cherry. Amended to include bears. Kerns and Cherry. Carried.

Page 5 (s) Grain Cleaners in Elevators. Starky and Halford. Lost.

Page 6 (s) Prizes Essays. Tabled for Board.

Page 42 Co-op Support. Young and Lewis. Carried.

Page 33 School Text Books. Mrs. Grimsrud and Konshak. Carried.

Page 41 State Medicine. Babich and Reggis. Carried.

(71) Page 30 Federation of Canadian Voters. Bausman and Webber. To be referred to Board of Directors.

(71A) Bausman resolution that M.P's be paid according to the results they accomplish. Moved that it be referred to Board of Directors. Anderson and Marshall. Carried.

Moved that rest of resolutions and unfinished business be passed to Board of Directors. Williams and Wilson.

Moved that on behalf of the A. F. U. our appreciation of the courtesy shown by the citizens of Edmonton in providing accomodation for our delegates and also to the City of Edmonton Council for the grant of \$75.

Thanks to the Press by Mrs. Pharis.

Moved that we recommend to the Board of Directors that the next Convention be held in November 1945. Perry and H. Mille. Carried.

Adjourn Marshall and Mrs. Chalky.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

This brought to a close the biggest convention yet held by the A.F.U. A larger hall will have to be secured as the organization continues to grow on some different basis of representation to keep down the number of delegates. Our locals should give some thought to this matter.

Womens' Corner

Dear Ladies:-

To you ladies who were not able to attend the Annual Convention these few lines are "especially" for you.

I trust you will find interest in "our corner" — and not too busy to take time off to read articles — which may appear from time to time. I am sure your writings will be taken care of by the Editor of The Bulletin and if mine does not appear, I am certain yours will.

It was rather unfortunate that the delegates did not see their way clear to place even one lady on the Board and they tried all methods to get her installed — but naturally it was too late to cry over spilled milk as one Lady Delegate put it.

They should have read what Henry Ford had to say on the eve of his 81st birthday and I quote,—“If we apply what we have learned and mix it with hard work—I can see a “great age” ahead.” Unquote. Ford who attributes most of his success to the faith of his wife Clara Bryant Ford — added “Maybe the women should be running the world, I believe they could do a better job.”

That's food for thought Ladies—myself I don't agree to all of it, but we have to give honor where honor is due. However, in our Farm Homes where our places are so vital in the way of producing “Special grade of cream” and grade A Large eggs, let us continue to strive and do all we can—for a better standard of living—right from the Peace River country down to the Southern end of the Province.

Let us take as much interest in the cause and principles of our Union as our men do—and boost our membership of 2,500—equal to that of our husbands—namely 22,000, that of men and women.

Will be looking forward to our “Farm Women's Corner” each month—for the whole year to follow—and remember to listen to the A.F.U. Broadcasts Tuesday evening 10:15 over C.J.C.A. and also “Farm Radio Forum”—Monday evening 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Let us do all in our power to make rural life interesting for our young sons and daughters for they are the leaders of tomorrow.

JUST A POEM

The farmer works from morn to night
His wife toils just as long,
The children hurry home from School
To them the chores belong.

With pigs to feed—and cows to milk,
They've little time for play,
They're really ready for their beds—
When comes the end of day.
The busy life with slim rewards,
Builds Character and brawn,
The future of the world is safe
With such to lean upon.

“Just a Member” No. 258.

The ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION has just completed its Third Annual Convention and what a Mass meeting of farmers. The like has not been known for many years in this province. How about adopting the following verse as our Theme:

UNION

A song for our banner? The watchword recall,
Which gave the Republic her station:

United we stand—Divided we fall:

It made and preserved a great nation:

The Union of lakes—the Union of land—

The Union of states none can sever—

The Union of hearts—the Union of hands—

And THE ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION
for ever.

Revised (The Flag of our Union
by G. P. Morris.)

With these words in our heart, we can go forward; we can reach the goal (parity prices) we have set out to get for every farmer in our land.

In January of 1942 there were but five farm-women as delegates present at that Annual convention. We were then known as the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section). In 1943 we increased our number to about twenty. In 1944 a further increase was noticed. But this year nearly Fifty farm-women filed out when asked to meet the photographer. These pictures can be purchased for the sum of \$1.00 each. It would be grand to have a picture (were it possible) of all our 2,500 farm-women members. Yes, our numbers are on the upward trend toward 3,000 women members. That really sounds good to me. How do you feel about it? Ladies. I hope every woman member decides to bring in to this union at least one more woman this year.

At the recent convention, the women delegates met on the last day and enjoyed a luncheon.

on together; at the Royal George Hotel. Next year we plan to do this kind of thing again; but not wait until the last day. It was the opinion of many of our women that we should get together early in the week in order to get acquainted.

Something should be done to encourage the Youth of our farms into this union. What can we do? Please pass on some ideas.

Much time was given at the past convention on the possibility of formation of a Woman's Section to the Alberta Farmers' Union.

This is the time when all members, especially the women, should let us know just what you think about this idea. The letters could be used in future regarding the matter; or some of them printed in our page. Let us all unite to see how interesting we can make this "Woman's Corner". The formation of a Woman's Section is a subject that needs some consideration on which the women must decide. We have a right to speak. Let us do it NOW.

During Convention week, one of our most enthusiastic workers gave me the following lines:—

"The success of this Union does not depend upon the Officers alone; but upon the hearty co-operation of every member, for as it has often been said, "One alone, the load cannot pull against the Storm and Weather; but with all shoulders at the wheel we can move along together".

May it never be said that any one of us has failed to do his or her part. The failure of one member to do that part may seem only a trifling matter, yet may dishearten others and so disrupt the whole set-up in your district.

Let each one of us be an active working member, for each one of us has a place to fill, in both the community and in this Union that can only be done by YOU, as each one of us has some undiscovered talent, something we can do better than anyone else.

I quote a little verse here that conveys what I have just said:—

"However small your place may be,
And obligations few;
The world so needs the kindly deed,
That ONLY YOU CAN DO".

Mrs. J. Geddes.

THE CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR — LEISURE

WE WERE taken from the ore-bed and the mine,
We were melted in the furnace and the pit—
We were cast and wrought and hammered to design,
We were cut and filed and tooled and gauged to fit.

Some water, coal, and oil is all we ask,
And a thousandth of an inch to give us play:
And now, if you will set us to our task,
We will serve you four and twenty hours a day!

We can pull and haul and push and lift and drive,
We can print and plough and weave and heat and light,
We can run and jump and swim and fly and dive,
We can see and hear and count and read and write!

Would you call a friend from half across the world?

If you'll let us have his name and town and state,
You shall see and hear your crackling question hurled

Across the arch of Heaven while you wait.
Has he answered? Does he need you at his side?
You can start this very evening if you choose,
And take the Western Ocean in the stride
Of seventy thousand horses and some screws!

Do you wish to make the mountains bare their head
And lay their new-cut forests at your feet?
Do you want to turn a river in its bed,
Or plant a barren wilderness with wheat?
Shall we pipe aloft and bring you water down
From the never-failing cisterns of the snows,
To work the mills and tramways in your town,
And irrigate your orchards as it flows?

It is easy! Give us dynamite and drills!
Watch the iron-shouldered rocks lie down and quake,
As the thirsty desert-level floods and fills,
And the valley we have dammed becomes a lake.

But remember, please, the Law by which we live,
We are not built to comprehend a lie,
We can neither love nor pity nor forgive.
If you make a slip in handling us you die!
We are greater than the Peoples or the Kings—
Be humble, as you crawl beneath our rods!
Our touch can alter all created things,
We are everything on earth — except The Gods!

Though our smoke may hide the heavens from your eyes,
It will vanish and the stars will shine again,
Because, for all our power and weight and size,
We are nothing more than children of your brain!

KIPLING.

C. C. I. L. CAMPAIGN

All arrangements are being made for a big membership drive for Canadian Co-operative Implements Ltd. to be carried out in March.

Pamphlets are being distributed and meetings will be held at central points. Canvassers are being appointed everywhere and everything set to go when the bell rings March 1st.

Let's show what Alberta can do in putting over the drive in a big way in a short time.

C. C. I. L. is one of the means to maintaining farm prosperity after the war. Don't hesitate about joining up when the canvasser calls.

Back the attack on high machinery prices.

**Canadian Co-operative Implements
Ltd.**

Revillon Building,
Edmonton.

Radio Notice

A. F. U. broadcasts until 5 April are as follows:

C.J.C.A. each TUESDAY night at 10:15 to 10:30 p.m.

C.J.C.A. Spot—each Tuesday and Thursday 12:58 noon.

C.F.C.N. each MONDAY evening at 6—6:15 p.m.

C.F.C.N. Spot—each Thursday 12:18 noon.

C. F. G. P. each THURSDAY evening at 8:30 to 8:45 p.m.

C.F.G.P. Spot — Monday and Wednesday 12:40 noon.

C.J.O.C. Spot — Friday 6:08 p.m.

Twenty Six Points on "THE ROAD TO PARITY PRICES"

1. What did we form this organization for? It was because we were not satisfied with the progress we had been making towards satisfactory prices for the farmers.
2. If we had been **satisfied** we would not have formed this organization.
3. This organization has an objective. That objective is Parity Prices. (Or a right relationship of prices).
4. That objective is not going to be readily obtained because there is some opposition to it.
5. Therefore in order to obtain it, the Alberta Farmers' Union must have a Program.
6. This Program consists of certain definite steps which must be taken if we are to overcome whatever opposition may be offered to Parity Prices.
7. In order that Parity Prices shall be satisfactory the farmers must have adequate markets because if we had Parity Prices for only that portion of our produce which is consumed in Canada, we would have to restrict our production to possibly one-half our capacity to produce, and that would mean cutting our **gross** income into half; and that would not give us a living.
8. Farmers do not believe in the economics of scarcity and they want to produce up to the limit of their capacity as long as they can find a market at a satisfactory price.
9. This means that about one-half of our produce must find an Export Market.
10. Owing to the development which has taken place in nearly all countries in the last 25 years, every country has something to export, and therefore, they all make it a condition that they will only import goods from those countries which will accept exports in exchange.
11. This being the case, International Trade has really resulted in the exchange of goods for goods on a barter basis. (Of course, the costs of transporting these goods must come out of the producers and consumers by way of price).
12. What we now do is exchange the goods of which we have a surplus and which WE DON'T need, for the surplus goods from another country which **they** don't need.
13. This is where the real Profit comes in, not

a financial profit but a USE profit, which gives you something you NEED in place of something you DON'T NEED.

14. However the exchanging of **our** goods with another country for **their** goods does not give us any money income. The only money income we shall receive up to this point is that which we get as a result of selling to other Canadian people in Canada (which will only provide us with about half the necessary income).
15. If the goods we exported were "traded" for the imports on a fair exchange basis then our Imports are at a "Parity value with our Exports.
16. But no MONEY has yet come into the picture as a result of export trade.
17. The Canadian consumer must have money to buy the imported goods which Canada has received in exchange for our exports.
18. Therefore our Export Board must be in a position to require the Bank of Canada to issue to them enough money to pay the Canadian farmer a Parity Price (according to Canadian standards) for his Export wheat or hogs, then the Canadian farmer will have sufficient money to buy what imported goods he requires.
19. It is for **this purpose** that this organization wishes the power of the Bank of Canada to be exercised "To issue public credit in terms of public need".
20. We presume that is why the A.F.U. Convention a year ago passed the resolution on Banking asking for the RIGHT to exchange our goods for money on the same terms as the banks now enjoy. (i.e. hypothecating of securities)
21. This is the purpose for which the Bank of Canada was first formed by the Conservative Party under Mr. Bennett. The Liberal Party under Mr. King did not think that the set-up was wholly satisfactory and fought and won an election on this issue; but have not yet brought about the required results. At least two other political parties are in favour of the proposal formulated by Mr. King. The matter is, therefore, not a party issue, and this organization can support it. It is necessary to our Program, and it is necessary for the farmers in order that Parity Prices for an average amount of Export production may be obtained.
22. That is the reason why your Board has endorsed certain resolutions advocating financial policy, and these are incorporated into

our Action Program in the hope that all farmers right across Canada will get behind these proposals, so that we may get the necessary support to succeed in getting Parity Prices for all farmers.

During the course of the years other proposals have been tried and organizations set up by the farmers in order to make the business of farming prosperous. These proposals have only met with a partial measure of success, and we must bring our power of analysis to bear upon the situation to see what is the hope of eventual success.

It is useless to follow a road perserveringly if it can be proved that it will not take us to our destination, and we cannot afford the time to continue to experiment for another fourteen years or so.

23. We are faced with the mathematical proof that we need to export some of our surplus production if we are going to continue to produce average crops and also wish to enjoy a standard of living such as our surplus production should make available to us.
 24. We are faced with the same proof that the Exchange of our surpluses for other surpluses does not bring us the money to buy the imports.
 25. We know that money **should** only be a medium of exchange, or the shadow of the substance, which is real wealth.
 26. We know that as farmers we have produced the real wealth, but we must now have the cost, plus wages, **price** for our goods before we can have the means to buy the real wealth produced by others. If this medium of exchange was supplied by the Bank of Canada, it would enable us all to enjoy the real wealth produced, and in that way we would all be wealthy and Parity Prices for us would result in parity values for everybody.
- This is the objective we have in view, and we want to enlist the aid of all farmers, not only Canadian but British as well as American, and also all labour movements as we know they all want these things. Their leaders and organizations have said so.

Purebred Tamworth boars and gilts for sale.
All ages, choice quality, extra good length,
light shoulders.

Bred from our splendid show boar.

Write:

CARL E. ELLIOTT

P. O. Box 10

Millet, Alberta.

The People or Sham Parliament

In all the schemes put forward for operation, etc., in the post-war reconstruction period, almost everyone is of a personal, selfish, gim-crack, or more or less impractical nature,—they super-impose everything on the present foundations, and these were laid 70 years ago at the Confederation and are much out-dated.

Our Constitution of Throne, Parliament and Law Courts are our real foundations,—the first, is sound and long may it endure,—the second, parliament is in a state of decay, due to the apathy of the people, and the self esteemed dictatorship by both the Dominion Cabinet and the Dictators of the Civil Service, plus the supine Government, majority who have surrendered all their independence and thereby betrayed their constituents and have further betrayed parliament and the people by muzzling the Opposition and public opinion.

This was clearly shown by the disgraceful episode relative to the Soldier Settlers' Delegation to Ottawa in which a Civil Service dictator (S. S. B.) and a Cabinet Minister teamed up to defy Parliament and public rights,—**without any protest whatever from the Prime Minister King.**

Must we continue to wash in this filthy water, or shall parliament be reformed, so as to conform to the electors' wishes? If so, how? Every recall measure I have seen or heard was unworkable due to public mass hysteria or apathy and the entrenched parties, M. P.'s, but the worst stumbling block of all is, "How to recall and yet preserve the secrecy of the ballot."

We, as electors **MUST HAVE** a tighter grip on our M. P.'s and parliament than we have now and in my opinion the only possible solution is:

THE REMEDY. Cut down the term of all assembly's legislative and parliament alike from the present five to three years, reckoned from poll to poll,—the expense incurred is trifling compared to the benefits we should receive.

As shown, every three years the electors "**would decide,**" — the drones, heels and parasite M. P.'s would be eliminated and with an election always "just around the corner" both electors and elected members would always be on their toes in the public interest, and there would be no burial deep of the previous five years corrupt practices or the digging up of ancient dirty linen to wash,—instead we should always be living in **TO-DAY** and not in the back wash swamps of Confederation.

With their own seats always in jeopardy M. P.'s would not be so willing to serve as tools of the permanent Civil Service bureau-crats or entrenched interests or as Cabinet stooges, — three years in the limelight would make them

— no mere warming of the Government benches as dead-wood rubbish would secure re-election for them.

ACTION NOW. No reforms worthwhile can be obtained until the electors **regain control** of their **OWN** parliament, this means you, so readers in your locals and on the street make your slogan, "Three years for the Best,—and to H..... with the Rest," and work hard to that end and a better Canada for all of us.

"OLD WYKE"

ALBERTA'S FROZEN FOOD LOCKER SERVICE

The establishment of frozen food locker plants at a number of points in Alberta, during the past five years, promises to solve a problem of perishable food storage for people living in areas served by those plants, states F. Wood, Creamery Inspector for the Alberta Department of Agriculture. Locker plants are small cold storages especially designed to provide cold storage facilities for people desiring to store perishable food products such as meats, poultry, fish, vegetables and fruits, until they are required for consumption. In addition to providing cold storage facilities, most locker plants provide other essential services. These services include slaughtering, killing of poultry, chilling and ageing of meats, cutting and wrapping of meat ready for cooking, sharp freezing at temperatures as low as 20° F. below zero, curing and smoking of hams and bacon, and lard rendering. Some plants, to a limited extent, supply suitable containers and advise locker renters on the correct procedure for preparing fruits and vegetables for freezing and storage.

The locker plants established in Alberta have enjoyed a good reputation for service to the locker renters and with very few exceptions, have been well built, properly equipped and well managed. A considerable amount of credit for this favourable condition is due to the work of the Alberta Cold Storage Locker Association in promoting high ideals of service to the customers of their plants.

At the 1944 session of the Alberta Legislative Assembly the Frozen Food Locker Act was passed. This Legislation which is the first of its kind in Canada provides for the licensing and inspection of all locker plants by the Department of Agriculture, in order to enforce regulations on insulation of cold storage rooms, capacity of refrigeration equipment, required temperatures, sanitary conditions and facilities, health of employees, processing of products, and a number of other important requirements.

The Act also provides for guarantees to co-

operative associations desiring to establish locker plants. Further information in this connection can be obtained on enquiry from the Supervisor of Co-Operative Activities, Department of Trade and Industry.

We have sufficient printed Programs of the Convention to enable every local to have at least one copy. These are on sale at Head Office for 25c.

Every delegate received one at the convention but others may obtain a copy as long as they last. The reports contained therein provide interesting information of the activities of the Union. We recommend it as a suitable souvenir of a great convention. You will need this Program for reference to this report.

RADIO FUND DONATIONS

Dec. 26th.	Local No. 270	\$12.00
Jan. 2nd.	Local No. 285	10.00
Jan. 4th.	Local No. 193	25.00
Jan. 15th.	Local No. 531	3.00
Jan. 18th.	Nick Mendwil	2.00
Jan. 22nd.	A. F. Melerius	1.00
Jan. 22nd.	Local No. 250	25.00
Jan. 24th.	Local No. 77	2.90
Jan. 24th.	Local No. 432	5.00
Jan. 24th.	Local No. 256	2.00
Jan. 27th.	J. Small	1.00
Jan. 27th.	Local No. 456	5.00
Jan. 29th.	Local No. 136	11.00
Jan. 31st.	Local No. 39	5.00
Feb. 1st.	Andy Dunn, Homstead	.50
Feb. 6th.	Local No. 123	10.00
Feb. 6th.	Local No. 92	20.00
Feb. 6th.	Local No. 531	2.00
Feb. 6th.	Local No. 71	3.00
Feb. 7th.	Mr. R. Halbert, Trochu	.50
Feb. 10th.	Local No. 305	10.00
Feb. 10th.	Local No. 15	4.00
Feb. 12th.	Local No. 368	15.00

There are various ways by which your A. F. U. Local can become the centre for discussion of community projects. The following suggested was sent in by A. D. Olsen, President of District No. 9.

UNITED ACTION

At this time of the year various Municipal Councils are making plans for construction of roads in the coming season.

Farmers, particularly those in the enlarged municipalities, can benefit themselves a great deal by discussing their problems in their A.F.U. Locals and arriving at a decision as to which roads or other projects will benefit the most people for the money spent in that particular local area.

Then when you have arrived at a decision put it in the form of a petition and present it to your local councillor for consideration.

USE INFLUENCE OF A. F. U.

The Homeglen Local of the A. F. U. under the leadership of A. D. Olsen, Local President, was responsible for the success of a community centre project involving the building of a Community Hall, 30' by 50' with a full basement.

The Homeglen Community Society who are the governing body had become inactive due to dissension in their ranks caused largely by a variety of religious sects in its membership.

The A. F. U. Local due to its non-political, non-religious status was able to overcome this and the project is going ahead very satisfactorily.

We think this is an example of what may be accomplished not only locally but on a larger scale involving whole provinces or even nations through a non-political and non-religious organization.

MONEY AND PRIVILEGE UNMASKED

Sir,

Permit me to draw the attention of the A. F. U. members to a very insidious attempt by Privilege and Big Business to stifle any attempt to expose the abuses which beset and bedevil us farmers.

Check up on every farm paper which has a Vox Pop Forum and note how in the past few months that this feature has either been eliminated or drastically cut down. Why?

Specially note that this space has been bought by Banks, Big Business, Cartels, Corporations and Government, bought especially to "Shut you up", — by shutting you OUT!

Canadian chain newspapers etc., have for months closed their columns to any real kick or expose of abuses; and also note that big business controlled farm papers have no Vox Pop at all.

Check up farmers on the papers you subscribe to, and note how underhand, dirty, destructive, devilish and undemocratic this game is, which proves once again that big business knows neither morals, religion or politics; but only the big \$ sign, regardless of whether we eat or have a place to sleep.

Fellow farmers and overall labour in general, the remedy is simple and if you have any guts at all, or respect for your wife and children then you'll use it. Serfdom and slavery should play no part in our lives,—it's organize and fight,—or go UNDER once again 1930 to 1940 fashion.

Yours, BERHUN.

